Fara Williams + Summer tour + Paul Walsh + Stadium latest + Didi Hamann + Ray Clemence + Bob Paisley

LIVERPOOLFC

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official liverpool fc monthly magazine

LET'S GO FIRMINO

THRILLING FANS AT A FOOTBALL GROUND NEAR YOU

ISSUE 037

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LIVERPOOLFC FIXTURES 2015/16

NEW SIGNINGS
Anfield heroes special

NEW SEASON
Ultimate 2015/16 guide

NEW LOOK
Your Reds mag reloaded









Issue 37 **September 2015**

Contents

Welcome to a new-look official Liverpool FC magazine with smart new sections adding up to 100 must-read pages for every rampant Red. We hope you enjoy it!

LIVERPOOL

A lively new front section exploring the wider LFC world and keeping fans up-to-date with what's happening and what's about to.

FOOTBALL

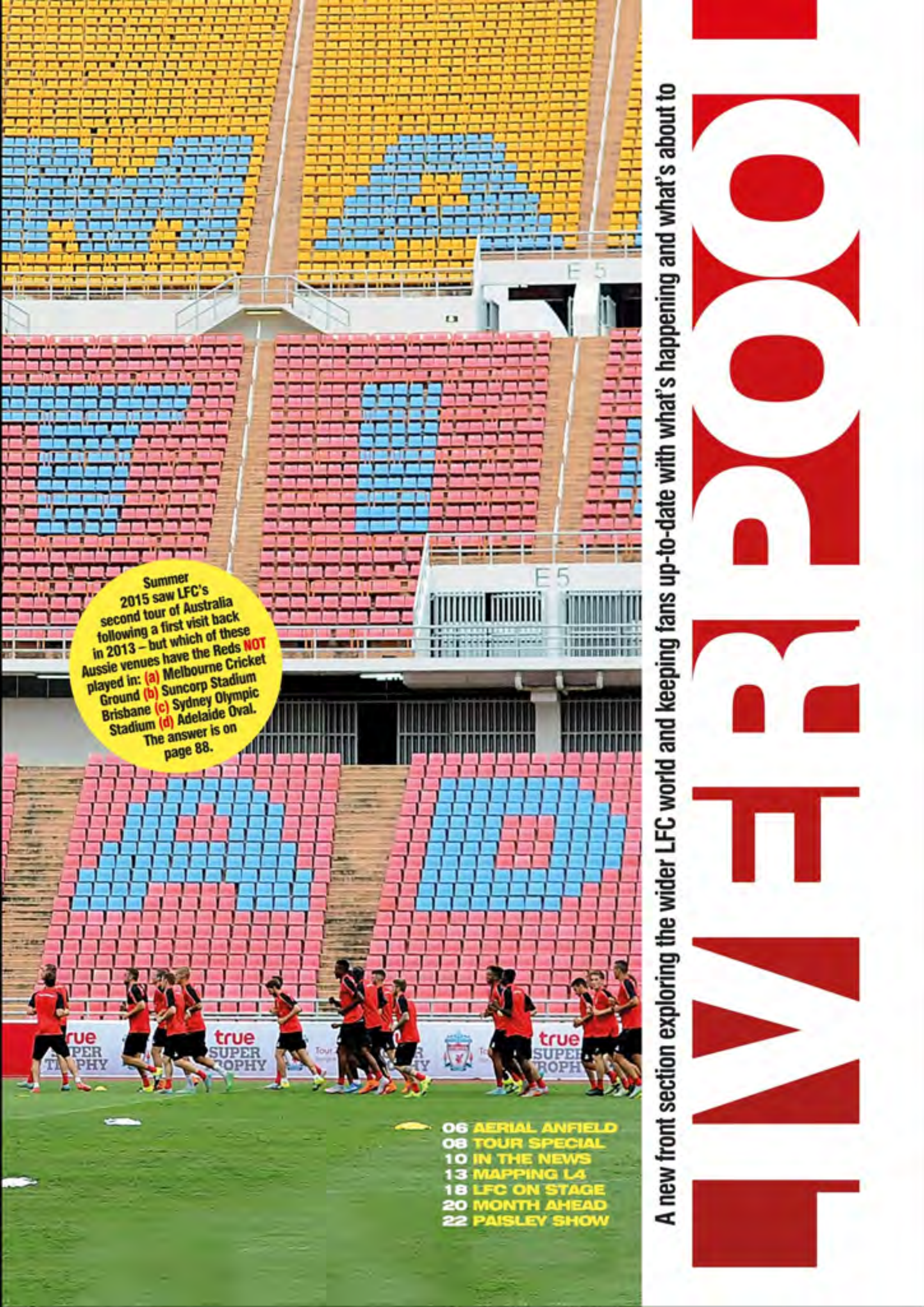
Exclusive interviews with current Reds stars, legends, Academy aces and the Ladies team, plus tales from the club's illustrious past.

CLUB

How the football club reaches out to communities at home and abroad, plus news from the stadium, official stores and media.

Trinity Mirror Sport Media
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A new front section exploring the wider LFC world and keeping fans up-to-date with what's happening and what's about to
Summer 2015 saw LFC's second tour of Australia following a first visit back in 2013 – but which of these Aussie venues have the Reds NOT played in: (a) Melbourne Cricket Ground (b) Suncorp Stadium Brisbane (c) Sydney Olympic Stadium (d) Adelaide Oval. The answer is on page 88.
06 AERIAL ANFIELD
08 TOUR SPECIAL
10 IN THE NEWS
13 MAPPING L4
18 LFC ON STAGE
20 MONTH AHEAD
22 PAISLEY SHOW
E5
true SUPER TROPHY



CHECKLIST

Dec 2014: Liverpool FC confirms redevelopment of stadium.
Dec 2014: first day on site for construction partner Carillion.
Jan 2015: construction work gets underway on expansion of Main Stand.
Jan 2015: Hillsborough Memorial placed into safe storage and specially-commissioned Temporary Memorial erected at entrance of Centenary Stand; eternal flame transferred to Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral temporarily.
Feb 2015: Shankly Gates dismantled and placed into safe storage.
Mar 2015: first steel assembled at Anfield as work begins to erect new structure behind existing stand.
May 2015: demolition of existing 1970s structure behind current stand.
Jun 2015: assembly of Main Stand's new truss begins on-site.
Jul 2015: truss lifted by cranes and lowered into position – see page 84.

ABOVE US ONLY SKIES

What our home looks like from overhead: a close-season capture

This striking aerial image shows not just Anfield stadium and the extent of work on the redeveloped Main Stand over the summer, but also the unique and actually rather handsome inner-city setting of one of the world's most famous sporting venues. Taken by *Liverpool Echo* photographer Richard Williams from a light aircraft in perfect weather conditions, the shot is one of several showing the stadium in its historic context next to the greenery of Stanley Park and still dense network of terraced streets. Many of the Coronation Street-type houses date from the late 1880s when the original football ground was established in what was already a densely populated suburb of Liverpool a mile northeast of the city-centre.

Keep reading this issue for a selection of historic maps of Anfield and an exclusive insight into the latest stage of the stadium's redevelopment.

The photo shows the new steel structure behind the ground's existing Main Stand



UNDERCOVER REDS

Make sure you catch the brilliant LFCTV clip of Jordan Henderson and Lucas incognito at the club's official store in Liverpool ONE – disguised as staff, teasing unsuspecting shoppers, and in or two cases getting their comeuppance! In our humble opinion it's the shaggy wig which Lucas wears that steals the show. "It's me arriving at Liverpool in 2007!" he laughs.

LFCTV is available on Sky channel 429 and Virgin Media channel 544. Don't miss its brand new shows from new-look studios, with exclusive behind-the-scenes access, every kick of every game and live news from Melwood, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Lucas and Hendo try to pass themselves off as store staff – no chance!













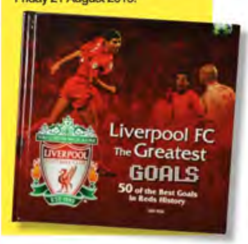
WINGING IT

Liverbirds around Liverpool #1. A bronze beauty in the Cunard Building, one of 'Three Graces' on the city's waterfront. How can we be sure it's a mate of Mighty Red's, the same species as the one on the LFC crest? Seaweed in the beak is a good giveaway.



WIN A BOOK OF GOALS!

We've got three copies of the fab new book **Liverpool FC: The Greatest Goals** to give away. Published in hardback by Carlton Books, this official publication celebrates 50 of the finest goals scored by the likes of Gerrard, Sturridge, Suarez, Torres, Rush, Dalglish, Hunt, Liddell, Owen, Fowler, Barnes and Keegan. For a chance to win, just send your name, address and contact number to **liverpoolfcmag @trinitymirror.com** and put **LFC GOALS BOOK** in the title box. We'll pick the winners at random and announce them in the next issue. **Closing date:** Friday 21 August 2015.





01



20 DAYS

The pick of the pics from Liverpool FC's summer tour



02

03

04

05

01 Jordan Henderson plays the didgeridoo (a line you never thought you'd read) on a visit to the Art Gallery of South Australia in Adelaide.
02 Jordon Ibe and Alberto Moreno signing a ball at the Central World Bangkok complex.
03 The boss and skipper visit Bangkok's Grand Palace in Thailand.
04 Red-hot atmosphere at the friendly match between Adelaide United and Liverpool FC.
05 Fans take a selfie with Simon Mignolet at the Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok.

LIVERPOOL FC Instagram



@Ec2323
It was nice to meet my friend @aziz.bouhaddouz again. Top guy #bouhaddouz #can #sandhausen #liverpool #ynwa



@jhenderson
Proud to have won vote to be on cover of @EASPORTSFIFA16! Thank you to everyone who voted the support from you all was incredible #FIFA16UKcover



@divockorigi
God is my guide!!



@ingstagram10
Enjoyed the open training session tonight and meeting some of the fans here in Adelaide

06





07

08

JORDAN IS OUR LEADER

"I'll look to give my best all of the time, put the team firmly first and try to give them whatever they need from me." With those words Jordan Henderson takes the armband for 2015/16, having been officially confirmed as Liverpool FC's new captain in what will be his fifth season with the club. Manager Brendan Rodgers says: "Jordan leads through example. He will be his own person, with his own style of leadership and his own ideas and methods."



REDS FANS COME TOP

Liverpool FC supporters have been named Barclays Fair Play Fans of the Season for 2014/15. Alongside the award, the club has also received £20,000 from the FA Charity Committee to provide a donation to a charity of choice or fund initiatives that enhance the positive atmosphere in stadiums or directly benefit supporters. The club will liaise with its Official Supporters' Committee to reach a decision.

SKRTEL IS A SCOUSER



Crazy about Liverpool – that's why fans favourite Martin Skrtel extended his stay at Anfield with a new deal. "It is great for me and my family because we have spent seven-and-a-half years here and in that time we have fallen in love with the city and the people," says the Slovakian international. "Our son was born in Liverpool too. There were rumours about me but there always have been, in every single transfer window. My first choice was always Liverpool."

09

10

06 Freestylers during a Standard Chartered event at Saujana Resort in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
07 Luis Garcia signs a ball at the Central World Bangkok.
08 Lucas, Lazar Markovic, Dejan Lovren, Mamadou Sakho and Divock Origi take in an AFL match at the Adelaide Oval.
09 Mamadou can't believe he's got Lallana's autograph!
10 Jordan with Wallabies rugby union skipper Stephen Moore at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane.

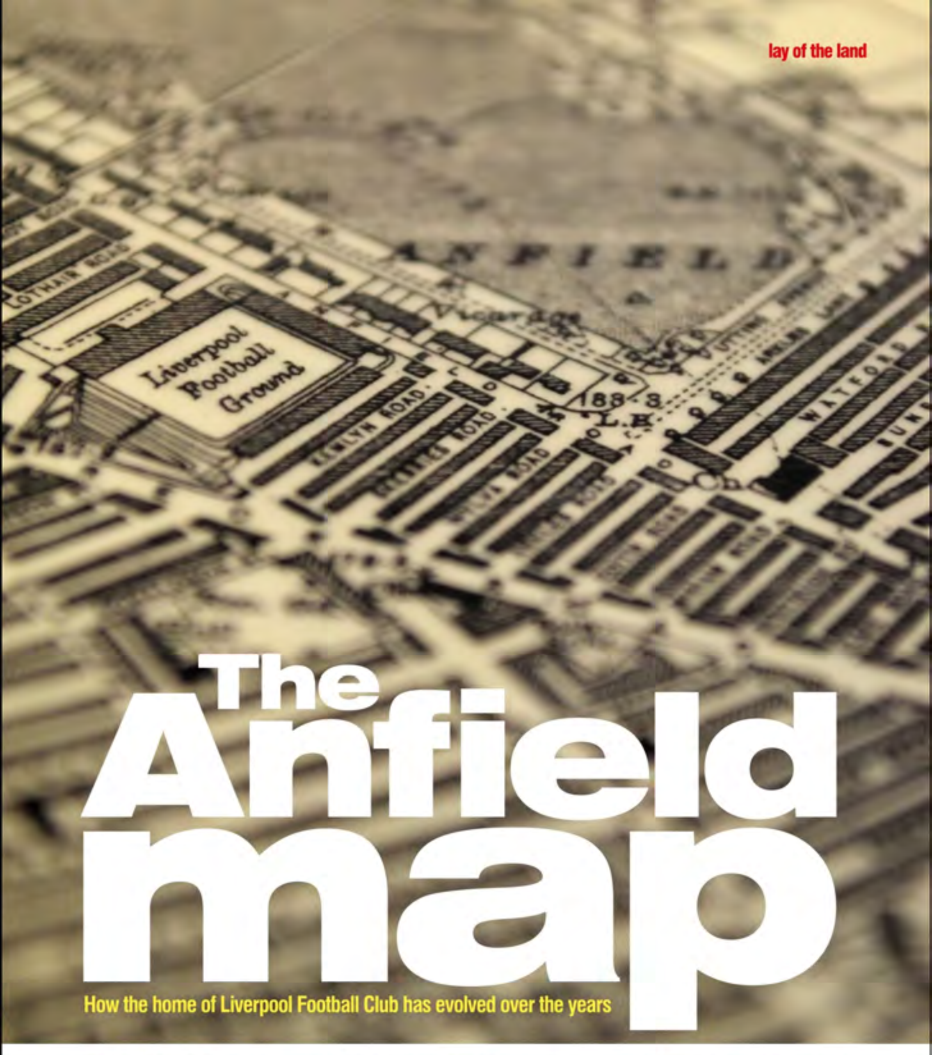




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The Anfield map

How the home of Liverpool Football Club has evolved over the years

Anfield is changing, both stadium and surrounding area. But then it always has. Today the ground bears no resemblance to the original rectangular space set aside for sporting activities – first cricket then association football – over 120 years ago. Many of the adjacent streets still have the same names, though, and a handful of local landmarks survive to this day, as the following fascinating historic maps reveal.

The maps are the property of Liverpool Record Office, on the top floor of the city's state-of-the-art Central Library, whose collection dates from the early 18th century. This page shows a detail from an Ordnance Survey map of Liverpool with a scale of six inches=one mile, drawn up in 1928. By then Liverpool Football Club had been established for 36 years, having won four top-flight league titles and reached its first FA Cup final in 1914. Anfield had its Spion Kop, and the familiar step-ladder pattern of streets was well-established to the northwest and southeast, with the wide open spaces of Stanley Park (and a couple of nearby vicarages) to the north.

1845: Annfield and all that

Received wisdom has it that Anfield gets its name from the 'Hangfields' which were narrow strips of land laid out in the area. Would it be too fanciful to suggest another, more divine origin? This 1845 map shows buildings called Annfield House, Annfield Villa, Annfield Lodge and Annfield Cottage, none of which remain, plus Annfield Lane which would eventually become Anfield Road. There was also a St Ann's Hill House. St Ann, more commonly known as St Anne, was often depicted in a red robe and known as the patron saint of sailors and a protector from storms.

One hundred and seventy years ago the booming seaport of Liverpool was on the verge of a cholera epidemic, and its wealthier merchants had fled to leafy, healthier Anfield and Breckfield to build the kind of grand houses your average professional footballer might live in today. On this map you can just make out Cabbage Hall Inn and Willow Bank House which survived as pubs, while the site of the modern stadium is the diamond-shaped field south of St Ann's Hill House between Annfield Lane and Walton Breck Road.





1891: before we were born

Notice anything unusual about the 1891 Ordnance Survey map on the next page? The old Kemlyn Road is clearly visible, and bottom-left are the Albert Hotel and Park Hotel, matchday pubs to this day, plus the Royal Hotel (now the Arkles) on the right. But the stadium, with its pairs of stands and pavilions, is marked as Everton FC territory. Note also the 'flagstaff' in one corner, home to the top mast of the Great Eastern steamship built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel and broken up on the Mersey in 1890. The map was drawn up a matter of months before the great split which saw the Toffees move out when brewer John Houlding founded a new football club. Houlding's home, Stanley House, can be seen on Anfield Road; it was built in 1876 overlooking the park created six years earlier.

On the left here is a detail from another plan of the same year, George Philips & Son's 'New Map of Liverpool and its Environs', in which the ground is an unmarked blank space.



Everton Football Ground
Pavilion
Pavilion
Stand
Stand
Seat
Seat
St. Ann's Hill
Trough
Flagstaff
Albert Hotel
Park Hotel
Co. Bor. & L.B.D. Boundary
LOTHAIR ROAD
KEMLYN



The OS map of 1891 shows Anfield as the home of Everton FC

LFC'S OTHER BIG TOUR

Dramatist and Reds fan Nicky Allt reveals this all-conquering stage-show is his last about football

It's been another busy summer for playwright Nicky Allt. His show *One Night In Istanbul*, based on the unforgettable fifth European Cup win of 2005, visited Ireland during the summer and was a huge success.

"First stop was Dublin and the Gaiety Theatre," says Nicky. "As everyone knows, the social scene in the Irish capital is huge and we really enjoyed it. People wanted to take the cast out and buy them drinks. Not too much though as everyone had a job to do, and the five nights and the matinee went very well. By the time we took the show to Ireland it had changed quite a lot from the original script and we'd added more music. Howard Gray, the director, did a great job.

"From Dublin it was up to Northern Ireland and Belfast for another five nights and a matinee at the Grand Opera House. We all travelled up together on the train along the coast, some of the scenery was spectacular.

"It's always the way but any touring show or concert will be at its best by the time it reaches its last venue because by then any slight kinks have been ironed out through performing again and again. There have been so many performances that it's almost perfect. So Belfast was the show at its finest and the response from the crowds was terrific."

As much as Allt enjoyed writing and touring *One Night In Istanbul* – and previously *YNWA The Official History Of Liverpool Football Club* – he insists his days of creating football-related plays are now at an end. "I've done a play about Istanbul, the best night in the history of LFC, and another detailing the club's incredible history, so I don't really want to cover anything else in the football area. I've been asked to write more football shows but I'm not planning on doing any.

"I'm still as busy as ever, though, working on non-football stuff. I've pitched a drama to Channel 4, some stuff to the West End and other shows more locally. So it's a case of moving away from writing about LFC while remaining the avid fan I've always been. I'm excited about the new season and the signings we've made."



"Belfast was the show at its best – the response was just terrific"



Ings and Ibe

I-PLAYERS

When Danny Ings and Tiago Ilori make their first-team debuts they'll become the ninth and 10th players whose surname begins with an 'I' to appear for Liverpool. Here are the first eight…

BOB IRELAND: **left Scotland in 1929 when he joined Liverpool from Rangers, but the defender with a Tin-Tin haircut only made one appearance, against Grimsby Town on Boxing Day 1930. Moved back across the border to St Johnstone in 1931 and according to lfchistory.net ran a billiards hall and shops in Perth (Scotland, not Australia).**

COLIN IRWIN: worked as a cameraman in Kirkby while coming through the Anfield ranks but found it hard to get into the first team, acting as understudy to Phil Thompson, Alan Hansen and Alan Kennedy between 1979 and 1981. Moved to Swansea City and eventually worked for a wine-seller in Perth (Australia, not Scotland).

ALAN IRVINE: **not to be confused with the former West Brom manager, 'Fraggle' made just four substitute appearances for the Reds, all in the 1986/87 season, but is best known for being the victim of a practical joke by player-manager Kenny Dalglish who told him he was starting in an FA Cup tie against Luton when in fact it'd been postponed.**

PAUL INCE: not every Kopite was made-up to see the former Man United man arrive from Internazionale in 1997 as Roy Evans tried to add some steel to his midfield. Paul was appointed captain but didn't quite produce his best in a red shirt on a consistent basis – though a late Anfield equaliser against United was memorable.

CHARLES ITANDJE: **understudy to Pepe Reina in 2007, the French-born Cameroon international keeper appeared in seven League Cup and FA Cup matches in 2007/08 but never played again after a shock FA Cup quarter-final defeat to Barnsley.**

EMILIANO INSUA: arrived on loan from Boca Juniors in 2007 before his move was made permanent and did well enough to be called up by Argentina for a World Cup qualifier against Peru. Loaned out by Roy Hodgson before joining Sporting Lisbon, then Atletico Madrid, and Stuttgart this summer.

THOMAS INCE: **not many father and sons can say they've both played for Liverpool but the Inces can – courtesy of Tom's 14-minute appearance against Northampton Town in a 2010 League Cup tie at Anfield. It was the winger's only appearance in a red shirt before he moved on to Blackpool in 2011.**

JORDON IBE: the former Wycombe Wanderers winger is fast becoming a key player for the Reds and spent part of his summer break putting in extra work on the Academy training pitch with none other than Kenny Dalglish as he strives to keep improving.

Emiliano Insua



Macca signs for the mag

The magazine is delighted to confirm the signing of writer Chris McLoughlin. The 37-year-old put chisel to stone on a long-term contract before he was officially unveiled in front of our own camera. McLoughlin, an Anfield season-ticket holder who's been attending matches since 1987, wrote and edited *The Kop* magazine for 15 years, worked on the old LFC weekly magazine for a decade and has penned a number of Reds-related books. After completing his move he said: "I'm over the moon to be writing for the official magazine having been a boyhood fan, and my message to the fans is that I never use cliches and I'm here to write about trophies."

Tweets of the month

Jordan Henderson @JHenderson
Biggest honour of my career being captain of this great football club. Thank you for all your support #YNWA

Divock Origi @DivockOrigi
Amazing feeling to play my first game for @LFC and great win for the team today! Nice to get on scoresheet too

Liverpool FC @LFC
The sound of 'You'll Never Walk Alone' reverberates around the Suncorp Stadium. Incredible show of support for #LFC in Australia once again

Andre Wisdom @andrewisdom47x
All the best to my homie Conor Coady signing at Wolves great player and great guy too much love for him

LA Galaxy @LAGalaxy
Welcome to Los Angeles, Steven Gerrard! #GR8NESS

WHAT'S



ON: AUG



IT'S KICKING OFF

Brendan Rodgers' men kick off the new Premier League season at the same venue they ended the previous one. The Reds make the short trip to the Britannia Stadium on Sunday 9 August to take on Stoke City looking for revenge after being hit for six in the Potteries on the final day of the 2014/15 campaign. A number of players are set to make their Liverpool debuts in the fixture as Jordan Henderson looks to make a winning start as the new team captain.

Anfield hosts its first fixture of the season on Monday 17 August when Eddie Howe's Championship-winning Bournemouth are the visitors for what will be the first-ever league meeting between the sides. The Cherries have played at Anfield on two previous occasions, losing FA Cup third-round replays by 4-1 scorelines on both occasions in 1927 and 1968.

A number of players look set to make their debuts at Stoke on 9 August

EURO OPPONENTS

The draw for the group stages of the UEFA Europa League will take place in Monaco on Friday 28 August. Liverpool will discover the identity of their three opponents as they begin a journey they hope will end with a place in the final at FC Basel's St Jakob-Park on 18 May 2016. Matchday One is scheduled for Thursday 17 September.

LADIES DAY

Liverpool Ladies have a busy month with three home games in 11 days book-ended by a league game at Sunderland and a Continental Tyres Trophy clash at Manchester City. Between times, the Select Security Stadium in Widnes will host Continental Tyres Trophy ties against Durham Women (Sat 15) and Sunderland (Wed 26) plus an WSL match against Bristol Academy on Sat 22. Why not go along to cheer on World Cup star Fara Williams and co?



Alan Kennedy with Bob at the 1981 European Cup final

WIN TICKETS TO PAISLEY SHOW

With the new season marking the 40th anniversary of Bob Paisley's first trophy-winning campaign, broadcaster and author John Keith is presenting a special stage show *Bob Paisley: Reluctant Genius* at New Brighton Floral Pavilion on **Friday 21 August.**

Four of Bob's players will join John on stage: Ian Callaghan, Jimmy Case, Alan Kennedy and Phil Neal while musician Gerry Murphy will perform The Ballad of Bob Paisley. Tickets are priced £15 (£12 concessions) and available from the theatre box office, by calling **0151 666 0000** or online at **www.floralpavilion.com.**

We have two pairs of tickets for this sensational stage show up for grabs as prizes for a couple of lucky readers. To enter the competition, simply answer the following question and email your answer with your name and contact details please to **liverpoolfcmag@trinitymirror.com** with **PAISLEY SHOW** in the title bar. The closing date is **Friday 14 August 2015** and winners will be notified as soon as possible. The usual terms and conditions apply.

Apart from the league, which other major trophy did Liverpool win in 1975/76?

Birthdays and anniversaries

Mark Wright 52 on 1 August
Erik Meijer 46 on 2 August
Ray Clemence 67 on 5 August
Mario Balotelli 25 on 12 August
Djibril Cisse 34 on 12 August
Corina Schroder 29 on 15 August
Martha Harris 21 on 19 August
Steve McMahon 54 on 20 August
Didi Hamann 42 on 27 August
Gerry Byrne 77 on 29 August
Alan Kennedy 61 on 31 August
Pepe Reina 33 on 31 August

38 years since the one and only Kenny Dalglish joined Liverpool from Celtic for £440,000 on 10 August
49 years since Roger Hunt's goal against Everton at Goodison Park won the Charity Shield on 13 August
44 years since Kevin Keegan scored on his Liverpool debut on 14 August
11 years since Xabi Alonso and Luis Garcia joined LFC on 20 August
54 years since Ian St John scored his first Liverpool goal on 30 August



FIXTURE LIST 2015/2016

AUGUST
Sun 9	Stoke City (A, 4pm, Sky)
Mon 17	Bournemouth (H, 8pm, Sky)
Mon 24	Arsenal (A, 8pm, Sky)
Sat 29	West Ham United (H, 3pm)

SEPTEMBER
Sat 12	Manchester United (A, 5.30pm, Sky)
Thu 17	UEFA Europa League Matchday 1
Sun 20	Norwich City (H, 4pm)
Wed 23	Capital One Cup 3
Sat 26	Aston Villa (H, 3pm)

OCTOBER
Thu 1	UEFA Europa League Matchday 2
Sat 3	Everton (A, 3pm)
Sat 17	Tottenham Hotspur (A, 3pm)
Thu 22	UEFA Europa League Matchday 3
Sat 24	Southampton (H, 3pm)
Wed 28	Capital One Cup 4
Sat 31	Chelsea (A, 3pm)

NOVEMBER
Thu 5	UEFA Europa League Matchday 4
Sat 7	Crystal Palace (H, 3pm)
Sat 21	Manchester City (A, 3pm)
Thu 26	UEFA Europa League Matchday 5
Sat 28	Swansea City (H, 3pm)

DECEMBER
Wed 2	Capital One Cup 5
Sat 5	Newcastle United (A, 3pm)
Thu 10	UEFA Europa League Matchday 6
Sat 12	West Brom Albion (H, 3pm)
Sat 19	Watford (A, 3pm)
Sat 26	Leicester City (H, 3pm)
Mon 28	Sunderland (A, 3pm)

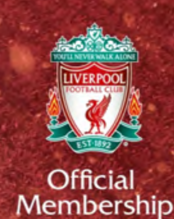
JANUARY
Sat 2	West Ham United (A, 3pm)
Wed 6	Capital One Cup S-F 1
Sat 9	Emirates FA Cup 3
Tues 12	Arsenal (H, 8pm)
Sat 16	Manchester United (H, 3pm)
Sat 23	Norwich City (A, 3pm)
Wed 27	Capital One Cup S-F 2
Sat 30	Emirates FA Cup 4

FEBRUARY
Tues 2	Leicester City (A, 8pm)
Sat 6	Sunderland (H, 3pm)
Sat 13	Aston Villa (A, 3pm)
Thu 18	UEFA Europa League R of 32 1
Sat 20	Emirates FA Cup 5
Thu 25	UEFA Europa League R of 32 2
Sat 27	Everton (H, 3pm)

MARCH
Tues 1	Manchester City (H, 8pm)
Sat 5	Crystal Palace (A, 3pm)
Sat 12	Chelsea (H, 3pm)
Sat 12	Emirates FA Cup 6
Sat 19	Southampton (A, 3pm)

APRIL
Sat 2	Tottenham Hotspur (H, 3pm)
Sat 9	Stoke City (H, 3pm)
Sat 16	Bournemouth (A, 3pm)
Sat 23	Newcastle United (H, 3pm)
Sat 23	Emirates FA Cup S-F
Sat 30	Swansea City (A, 3pm)

MAY
Sat 7	Watford (H, 3pm)
Sun 15	West Bromwich Albion (A, 3pm)
Sat 21	Emirates FA Cup final



YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
LIVERPOOL
FOOTBALL CLUB
EST 1892
Official
Membership

Didi Hamann

It was an honour to travel with the club on the summer tour

Not every ex-player can become a manager or coach, but that doesn't mean they don't have a part to play for the club. I saw proof of this during the pre-season tour to Asia and Australia.

Along with Luis Garcia, Robbie Fowler and Ian Rush, I was a member of the travelling party. Naturally it didn't take much persuasion to get involved and we all really enjoyed the trip and incredible reception we received. Our main role was to help out with the many sponsors' commitments that are part-and-parcel of modern football. The first-team lads can only do so much because their priority has to be training and playing.

Having former players present benefits everyone – the fans get to meet recognisable faces while we keep busy. I've spoken before about former players drifting away from the game once they retire and how that can cause them huge problems eventually. I really appreciate being involved because I know the situation isn't the same with every club. Bayern Munich, another of my former teams, are also very good at ensuring those who once played still have roles. Karl-Heinz Rummenigge is CEO and Franz Beckenbauer is honorary president. Not every club values their former employees so highly.

"Only now I've retired do I see what being an ex-Reds player means"



Didi's fellow Reds ambassador Robbie went skydiving!

Another ex-Liverpool player who was also on the summer tour was Gary McAllister. His addition to the coaching staff is a positive move. He brings a huge amount of experience and, above all else, is a winner. He won the league, FA Cup, League Cup, UEFA Cup and other trophies during his playing days. Personally, I know exactly what he can contribute to a dressing-room.

When Gary signed for Liverpool in the summer of 2000 I remember many fans thought that, at 35, he was too old. Before then I'd faced him many times so I was well aware of what he was capable of and just how competitive an individual he is. He'd always looked after himself and was still in great shape. He made a huge impact and played a big part in our success. So having him working with the squad now should be very beneficial. One piece of advice from Gary could make a huge difference to the players, many who are still developing.

Sadly, just as one great servant of the club returns another has left us. Brian Hall was a big part of the set-up when I first signed, working on public relations. Going further back he had been a member of Bill Shankly's team, playing over 200 games. I got to know him pretty well and he was a great man who was very humble about his achievements. Brian was somebody who fully understood what LFC and the city is all about. He got what it meant to the fans.

I think that is one of the first things that strikes you when you sign; just how big the club is. It took me a while to get my head around that. So I think it's great experience for the new players to go on the pre-season tour because it immediately shows them the responsibility they have when they pull on a red shirt.

Doing so gives you an incredible bond with the supporters. It's probably something you don't fully realise during your playing days because you are always focused on the next session or match. It's only now, when I've retired and gone on tour, that I can appreciate what being an ex-Liverpool player means. It's a privilege.

Follow Didi on Twitter @dietmarhamann


Garuda Indonesia
Garuda Indonesia


Firmino is the sixth Brazilian to play for LFC – can you place the other five in order of their debuts, starting with the first? Answer on p88.
Up close and personal with the new signings in our Reds Reloaded section plus a great big preview of the 2015/16 season



HERE TO PLAY HERE TO WIN

He could've stayed put – so why did James Milner choose to be part of a new Anfield adventure?



You had a lot of success at Manchester City – leaving can't have been too easy?

It wasn't. City is a great place to play football and I had a good relationship with the club, the fans treated me very well. Moving on was a difficult choice. But as I come to what you might call the final portion of my career – I'm not going to retire any time soon – I want to get the most out of it and be the best player I can be.

For me that means playing in every game if I'm performing well, whereas at City I felt there were times I could be player of the month but then wouldn't start for the three games that followed. I know I'm not guaranteed to play each week here at Liverpool but I think if my form is good then I will.

I see Liverpool's current standing as similar to City's when I first went there. At that time I had the chance to go to another club who had won quite a lot and City hadn't won anything for decades. But I chose to go there because I wanted to be part of something and make history. We managed to do that and now I want to help Liverpool achieve similar things.

"As a kid I was always convinced that I'd get there but you need a lot of luck"

New boy at Melwood

Playing in central midfield is quite a big factor for me coming here too. I had one season at Aston Villa where I did well in that role and it prompted City to spend a lot of money on me. Since then I haven't really played in the middle for a sustained period and you then get branded as a utility player. I feel I can show people what I'm really able to do here and reproduce that Villa form on a regular basis.

You bring a lot of experience to a Liverpool squad that has a youthful core...

I'm 29 and this is my 13th season at this level – that's a lot of games. I'd like to think I can use what I've learned to benefit the young lads and be a good example both on and off the field. I want to help them reach their potential.

I was 16 when I made my Premier League debut with Leeds so I know that trying to make it isn't easy.

As a youngster I played cricket too, as a wicketkeeper, and really enjoyed it. I still love cricket now and would love to get back into it when I eventually finish playing football. The fact that you could actually have a career in football didn't really occur to me for a while. I'd started out kicking around with friends in the playground and played my first proper game at the age of nine with Westbrook Juniors – we lost something like 16-2 on the biggest pitch I've ever seen.

The next season that team was disbanded so I played with their Under-12s instead. We won the league but the rest of the sides complained that I was too young and shouldn't be playing. I signed for Leeds shortly after that. Just before then, Everton had been in touch. They set up a trial for me but it was cancelled because of snow and I never heard from them again. So it was only once I'd joined Leeds and started playing in their academy that the idea of maybe being a footballer became a reality. Before then I'd just been enjoying playing.

Why do you think you made it and other players didn't?

At Leeds there was nothing in my mind that suggested I wouldn't make it. I was 100 per cent convinced that I was going to get there. The reality is that you have to be very lucky, as you need a lot of things to fall in to place.

I was fortunate that Terry Venables [then the Leeds manager] was willing to put me in the team at the age of 16. He showed a lot of faith and I'll always be grateful to him for that. My life changed then, although I probably didn't realise it at the time. I'd only done my GCSEs a few months earlier and everything happened quickly. Another thing that helped me was that Wayne Rooney had emerged at around the same time. His impact was bigger and that took the pressure off me – the spotlight went on to him instead.



Already in the thick of it

"I've seen players who had the ability but not the right mindset"

I had some more luck a little later on too. I'd played a couple of times for Leeds and was in and out of the first team, and we were getting ready for a game away to Spurs when Terry told me he was leaving me out of the squad. Then, in training, somebody got injured so I was back in the travelling party, although I didn't expect to even be on the substitutes bench at White Hart Lane. Then there was another injury to somebody else in the warm-up and I became a sub. In the end I came on and made a goal and then stayed in the side. It just shows that you need things to go your way.

As a young player you have no fear – you don't think too much about it all. You just go out there and do what you have been doing for the academy team. There was a great bunch of professionals at Leeds who helped me along and the club protected me very well. I hardly did any press for a long time.


On the ball at Melwood

Does attitude play a big part too?

Definitely. Over the years I've seen a lot of players who had so much ability but didn't quite have the right mindset. I don't know it if was drinking or girls or something else that distracted them. I made the decision not to drink when I was young because I wanted to do whatever I could to make myself a better player. I don't miss having a hangover. I can still go out with my mates and have a good time without alcohol; I act as the babysitter or designated driver.

Academy lads who didn't go on to have good careers probably thought they'd made it because they were at a big club and being paid decent money. But football has moved on so much now, even since I started playing, that you have to do absolutely everything right and make so many sacrifices. Unfortunately some people with loads of ability didn't want to





Off the mark against Brisbane Roar

make those kind of sacrifices or couldn't adapt. They couldn't grasp that mentality.

The attitude of your parents plays a big part too. As a kid you don't realise or appreciate the hours they put in [to help you make it]. At Leeds we trained three times per week and played at weekends. We'd go away to somewhere like Everton, Newcastle or Man United and my parents would make the journey and stand on the sidelines in rain or hail. I know that I wouldn't be sat here now if it wasn't for them and the hours they put in.

A lot of sportspeople have huge profiles nowadays – is it fair to say you shy away from that?

I think so. With Twitter, Facebook and Instagram there are no secrets. Almost everything is picked up by the media: if you sneeze somebody knows about it within minutes. So I like to switch off and spend time with my friends and family. Doing that helps me to get away from the pressures of football. It is intense at times. You win a league title but within three months that can all be forgotten and people are on your back again. So, when it's possible, I try to get away from the limelight and be myself. Social media isn't really part of that.



Applauding Reds fans on the summer tour

So about that parody Twitter account @BoringMilner...

How do you know it's not me that set it up? [Laughs] I'm not on Twitter personally but my foundation is. Nobody knows who runs the BoringMilner account. Joe Hart always says if people really knew me they'd know I'm nothing like that. But I don't mind it. At times you need to have a joke. Football is a serious game so you do need to have a laugh at the appropriate moment. I think if you are around good people and all get on well it helps you to play better as a team. Having a laugh and a joke at the right time can help you be successful.

Milner move by move



2002: makes his Leeds debut v West Ham aged 16; first plays at Anfield in March 2003 in a 3-1 defeat.
2003: spends a month on loan at Swindon Town, scoring twice in six old Second Division appearances.
2004: joins Bobby Robson's Newcastle United after Leeds are relegated but can't win a regular place under new boss Graeme Souness.
2008: moves to Aston Villa, having spent the 2005/06 campaign at the West Midlands club on loan.
2010: signs for Manchester City and goes on to play almost 150 times over five seasons.
2015: swaps the Etihad Stadium for Anfield; overall James has made 24 appearances against the Reds for his former clubs, scoring once in a 3-0 home win for City in January 2012.







Interview: John Hynes Main image: Nick Taylor

FIRMINO

THE GOALS AND ASSISTS





SELFLESSLY SQUARES FOR TEAM-MATE V AUGSBURG







Last season Roberto Firmino made almost as many goals as he scored – and here's the video evidence

Looking forward to seeing Brazilian new boy Roberto Firmino pull on a red jersey and link up with the likes of Philippe Coutinho, Daniel Sturridge, Adam Lallana, Divock Origi, Jordon Ibe and Danny Ings? How about a few more reasons to make your mouth water? Last season the 23-year-old attacker scored 14 goals and provided 12 assists playing for Hoffenheim in the Bundesliga and Brazil at international level, showcasing the creative and goalscoring talents that will be on display at Anfield. Here's the full list along with a few replays. Play it again, Samba...

Hoffenheim 2 Augsburg 0
Bundesliga 23.08.14
Assist 1: outpaces the full-back to run onto a through-ball before squaring a first-time pass to Hoffenheim team-mate Tarik Elyounoussi who slots the ball into the Augsburg net.

Werder Bremen 1 Hoffenheim 1
Bundesliga 30.08.14
Goal 1: makes darting run from left to get in behind the Bremen defence and touch a diagonal Sebastian Rudy pass away from onrushing keeper, striking it into an empty net while, somewhat unusually, looking away from goal.

Hoffenheim 2 Schalke 04 1
Bundesliga 04.10.14
Assist 2: runs onto a pass in the right-hand side of the penalty area and squares the ball for Elyounoussi to knock past the keeper.
Assist 3: receives ball in midfield and plays short side-footed pass for striker Adam Szalai to run onto and fire over the keeper into the net.

Hoffenheim 5 FSV Frankfurt 1
DFB Cup 29.10.14
Assist 4: wins tackle in midfield, dances past a lunging challenge from opposition centre-half before feeding Sven Schipplock on his left who curls the ball home.
Assist 5: turns man in midfield before playing defence-splitting pass to Jannik Vestergaard who side-foots low shot underneath the onrushing keeper.
Goal 2: meets clipped Tobias Strobl cross with spectacular overhead kick eight yards from goal that leaves goalkeeper rooted to the spot.
Goal 3: runs in behind static defensive line to control chipped Rudy pass before clipping ball past the keeper when clean through.

Hoffenheim 3 Cologne 4
Bundesliga 08.11.14
Goal 4: picks up ball centrally, plays one-two with Elyounoussi on edge of the box before cutting between two men and firing right-footed drive from 20 yards into bottom corner.
Goal 5: darts into box at far post to meet diagonal Kevin Volland cross and flicks a header neatly into the net.




FABULOUS TIMING AND TECHNIQUE V FSV FRANKFURT













FIRES OFF A MEDIUM RANGE MISSILE FOR BRAZIL V AUSTRIA

Austria 1 Brazil 2
International friendly 18.11.14
Goal 6: receives pass from Filipe Luis 25 yards from goal, takes a touch and lashes rising drive into top corner in spectacular style.

Hoffenheim 3 Eintracht Frankfurt 2
Bundesliga 12.12.14
Assist 6: evades a challenge in midfield and plays a reverse pass for Volland to run onto, round the keeper and score.
Goal 7: taps into the net from close range after Szalai back-heels the ball back across goal following a scramble from a Hoffenheim corner.

Hertha Berlin 0 Hoffenheim 5
Bundesliga 21.12.14
Assist 7: beats offside trap on left-hand side, draws keeper out of his goal before squaring with outstep of right boot for Schipplock to walk the ball into empty net.
Assist 8: pounces on defensive error in Hertha box to win a tackle, controls ball with his left before squaring across goal with outstep of right boot for Rudy to finish.

Augsburg 3 Hoffenheim 1
Bundesliga 01.02.15
Goal 8: escapes his marker from a Pirmin Schwegler free-kick in snowy conditions and rises to flick a neat back-header from 10 yards into the top corner of the Augsburg net.

Hoffenheim 2 VfB Stuttgart 1
Bundesliga 14.02.15
Goal 9: in the right place at the right time to lash a right-footed half-volley home from 11 yards after his team's free-kick isn't cleared.

Hoffenheim 2 Mainz 05 0
Bundesliga 28.02.15
Assist 9: sprints from inside own half to latch onto deflected pass and race clean through before squaring left-footed for Volland to side-foot home.

Brazil 1 Chile 0
International friendly 29.03.15
Goal 10: in a pre-Copa America friendly in front of 60,000 spectators at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium, and with Philippe Coutinho also in the Brazil team, he makes a driving run through the centre of the pitch to get on the end of a Danilo through-ball, gliding past the Chile goalkeeper and tapping into an empty net from edge of six-yard box.

Hoffenheim 1 Borussia Moenchengladbach 4
Bundesliga 04.04.15
Assist 10: makes a clever diagonal run to receive the ball in the Borussia penalty area before looking up and placing an inch-perfect pass with his left instep for team-mate Sven Schipplock to convert.

AGAIN SPOTS TEAM-MATE BETTER PLACED THIS TIME V GLADBACH



Borussia Dortmund 3 Hoffenheim 2
DFB Cup 07.04.15
Goal 11: pressurises Dortmund centre-half into defensive error, races through on goal and dinks ball over keeper from just inside the area.

Hannover 96 1 Hoffenheim 2
Bundesliga 25.04.15
Assist 11: pinches ball off opponent in central midfield area and scuffs shot from 20 yards into the path of Anthony Modeste who finishes close in.

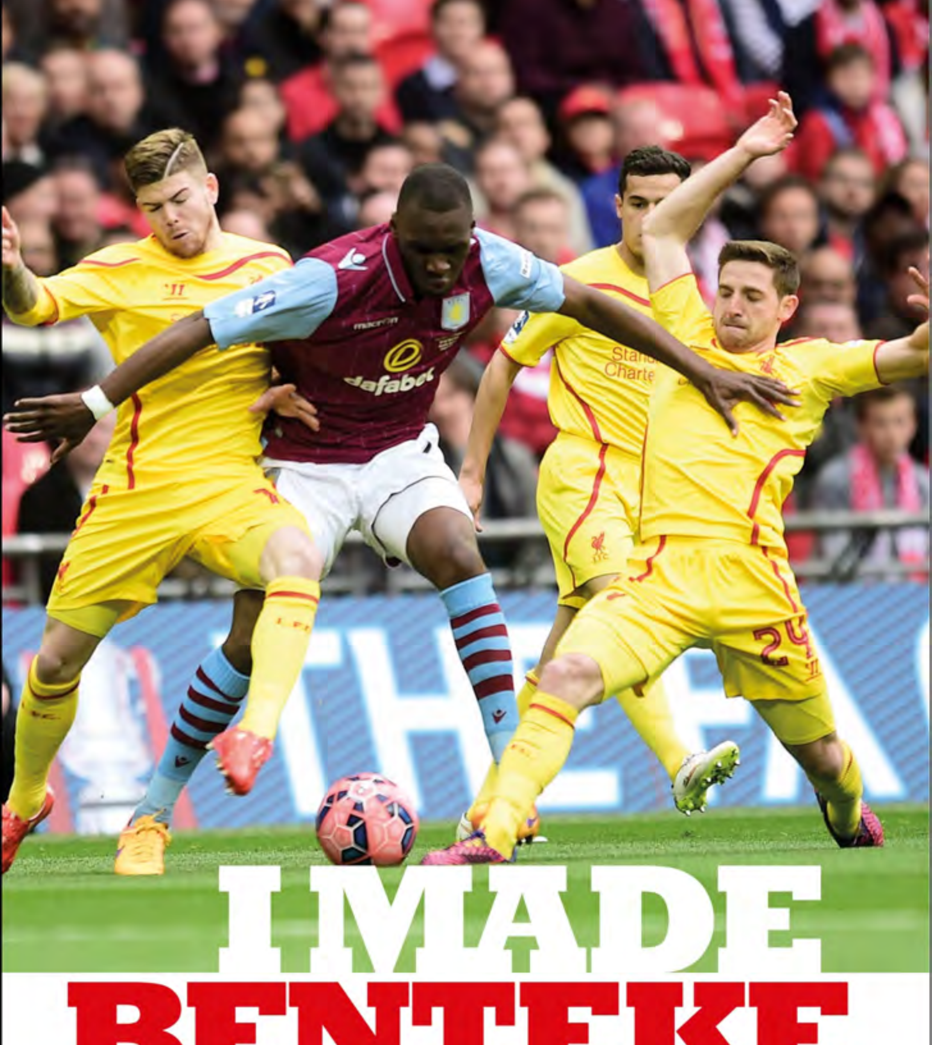
Hoffenheim 2 Hertha Berlin 1
Bundesliga 23.05.15
Assist 12: turns one man and nutmegs another before diagonal pass to Modeste who fires home.
Goal 12: follows in shot parried by the keeper to slot right-footed effort in at near post inside the six-yard box.

Brazil 1 Honduras 0
International friendly 11.06.15
Goal 13: Coutinho pass releases Filipe Luis who squares the ball to Firmino and he slots it between the keeper's legs with hisº left instep.

Brazil 2 Venezuela 1
Copa America 21.06.15
Goal 14: meets bouncing Willian cross in mid-air on edge of six-yard box and flicks it into corner of the net.



Words: Chris McLoughlin



I MADE BENTEKE MEAN

So says the top Belgian coach whose Liverpool connection goes back 40 years


Georges Leekens

The man who coached Liverpool's second most expensive player as a teenager and handed him his international debut has no worries about Christian Benteke being a hit at Anfield. "Liverpool will love him," says former Belgium coach Georges Leekens. "There's no worry about that at all."

Older Reds may recalls that Leekens was a defender in the Bruges team that lost to Liverpool in the two-legged UEFA Cup final of 1976 and the European Cup final at Wembley two years later. Now 66, he went on to manage the club twice and had two spells in charge of the national side. He also coached Belgian top-flight team KV Kortrijk in 2009 when he took a fresh-faced Benteke on loan.

"I was very hard with him in the beginning because I knew that he had a lot of talent. He was too nice and that was one of the problems: on the pitch everyone has to hate you! He's got very good technique but he was spending too much time on that. He wasn't using his body or his speed."

Benteke had arrived on loan from Standard Liege but did not feature in the KV first team for the first few weeks. "He may say that I was protecting him but I was asking more from him," continues Georges. "After two months he understood that he needed to work hard improving his finishing, shooting with his left foot, when defenders are on his back, and also his heading. Surprisingly, given his size, he was not that strong or dangerous in the air. But he worked hard and in the right way. Then he became the guy who carried our attack on his back."

Benteke netted 15 times in 34 games, leaving Kortrijk a different player. It wouldn't take long for the forward to take another significant step in his career, partly down to Leekens again. "At the end of the season I went to manage the national team and I decided to call him up [for a game against Bulgaria in May 2010]. Everyone was surprised that I took a young boy. He deserved to be with the team. I protected him and we had a great group. Eden Hazard was

"I know Liverpool is right for him – he will be a fantastic forward"

his best friend off the pitch, so he helped him settle.

"A player makes his career, not a coach. A coach can only help. Afterwards he knew that being a professional footballer is a gift but you have to work hard. I know Liverpool's mentality is for him. He's a really nice guy away from the pitch too. He's definitely a Liverpool guy: good discipline, family man and not someone who wants to put himself in the newspapers."

Some onlookers have questioned whether Benteke suits a Brendan Rodgers side – something that irritates Leekens. "They're the guys that don't know too much about football. He doesn't actually like the long ball game. He's a guy that likes to play with the ball on the ground.

"A system adapts itself to a good player. Be patient and give him the time to progress. This is a guy who is a team player: he makes space, he's strong, the whole defence is busy with him and then the other striking partner can profit. He's not just a target man, he can hold the ball and switch play. He's fast, good in the air, mentally strong, and the supporters will love him. He will be a fantastic centre-forward for Liverpool in a number of different systems."

And Georges' own memories of playing at Anfield in those epic European ties in the 70s? "I really love Liverpool: the mentality of the club and the players, and that crowd is absolutely fantastic. We were good, but they were just a little too strong for us back then."

Words: Glenn Price

BENTEKE V LIVERPOOL



Christian has scored five goals in six appearances for Aston Villa against Liverpool. He was on target twice on his first visit to Anfield in a 3-1 win for the Villans in December 2012, firing home first from 25 yards then beating Pepe Reina from close-range, and also setting up another with an exquisite back-heel. In the return at Villa Park in March 2013 he opened the scoring with a fierce half-volley and had a header cleared off the line as the Reds prevailed 2-1. The following season in a 2-2 draw at Anfield in January 2014 he scored Villa's second with a stopping header at the Kop End, and he equalised for the Villans in their 2-1 FA Cup semi-final victory over Liverpool last April.



Christian: great player and all-round good guy



"I WANT TO SCORE IN FRONT OF THE KOP – BUT THIS TIME FOR LIVERPOOL"

New Reds right-back Nathaniel Clyne on making the move north and making amends for that absolute belter last season at Anfield



"Liverpool play a passing game and I'm looking to get forward"

Nathan on the roof of the club's city-centre offices

Big brother's little brother...

My brother Theodore is thrilled for me to have made the move to Liverpool – I am living his dream as well as my own. He's five years older than me and when he started playing football at the Afewee Academy in Brixton, South London, I'd always nag him, saying: "Why don't you take me – I want to play football too." He finally caved in and I started playing with my age-group and that's how it all began.

London marathon

When I was 10, I had a trial at Tottenham. It went well and I joined their youth programme. I was there from the age of 10 right the way up to 14. I left Tottenham due to all the travelling: after school there was training but I was getting there late because I was coming so far from South London to North London. In the end we decided it would be better for me to go somewhere more local and so I moved to Crystal Palace. From joining Palace at 14 it's been a decade until my move here to Liverpool. It's been a long ride at times but I have just tried to knuckle down and improve. I'm getting credit now and receiving the rewards for all the hard work I've put in over those years, and I'm very happy to be here.

Fine art of the full-back

All the coaches that I've worked with have helped me to develop over the years, teaching me the rights and wrongs and the disciplines of defending and positioning. The same is also true for my attacking play. I'm confident in my ability with defending which has helped push me on really well in the game. I rarely get beaten in a one v one situation, which is obviously important, and







Five England caps and counting



Pick that one out! This time last year

I've improved as the seasons have gone by in respect of getting forward. I think I've become a lot more confident in myself in getting up the pitch and helping out in attack as well as back in defence.

The brand of football that Liverpool plays is not dissimilar to Southampton, and that definitely attracted me to joining the club. Liverpool play a passing game and attacking football which is exciting because you don't want to be defending for the whole match. Hopefully that will give me more licence to go forward and I will be able to create a few chances and get some assists while adding goals to my game as well.

What Koeman did

Last season was an important one for myself and for Southampton. To have had the season that we did after what had gone on during the summer with all the players [including Adam Lallana, Dejan Lovren and Rickie Lambert] and manager [Mauricio Pochettino] leaving was quality. We got a great manager in Ronald Koeman who had lots of experience as a player and also as a boss. He signed some quality players and got us going by playing in a way that was good to watch and really enjoyable to be a part of. The team bonded well and we had a good campaign.

Silencing the Kop

I have played at Anfield a few times with Southampton and was on the winning side in 2013/14 when we got a 1-0 result with a goal from Dejan Lovren. My goal last season is one I'll remember. It was a great build-up between me and [Dusan] Tadic. He produced a clever back-heel to complete a one-two as I overlapped into the box. My immediate thought was just to hit it but I saw Graziano [Pelle] to my left screaming for the ball. Even so my one thought was: nah, I'm just going to hit it! And it went in the top corner so I was happy. I guess I wasn't too popular with the Liverpool fans on the Kop that day but hopefully I can score one at the same end before too long to try and make amends!

Getting to know you

It was important to join ahead of pre-season. I think it's the perfect time for me to come into the team. It meant I was able to join in the pre-season at Melwood and then fly out with the squad on the tour which has been an amazing experience. Overall it's given me time to bed-in and get to know the team and how they play, and also get to know the manager, the staff and how they operate as well. It's all about adapting. We have a lot of training sessions at this time of year to help us get used to each other, familiarise





Driving forward v Adelaide United

On the ball at Melwood

ourselves with how players play, what their best qualities are and so on. We've also had a lot of pre-season games which will help us get used to each other and gel to the formation that the manager wants us to play.

Anfield ambition

At 24 there is an opportunity for me to be part of the set-up here for a good part of my career. That's definitely the aim – I'm here for the long-term. I'm looking to nail a spot down at Liverpool as soon as possible, but I still have a number of things I can improve on that will hopefully make me a better player than I am now.

I'm confident that I can help the team and that we can have a good season. Making my home debut is something I am really looking forward to. I've seen lots of great atmospheres at Anfield, especially on the European nights, so it will be exciting to experience that. Seeing the crowd hold up their scarves and sing *You'll Never Walk Alone* from the perspective of a Liverpool player will be good.

Moving north has been a new experience for me as I have lived in the south all my life. But I'm old enough to make the move without being homesick and it's a new challenge and hopefully one which will make me a better player and bring out more confidence in me as well.

Let's go to work

With the squad that we have, I would like to think that we'll look to win every competition that we're in. Our aim has to be a title challenge and trying to make the final of one of the cup competitions, while doing as well as we can in the Europa League.

My main objective for this season is to establish myself as a Liverpool player. If I can do that, hopefully I can be part of the England squad at next summer's Euros. I know that's not going to be easy as there are a lot of quality players fighting for positions in that squad at the end of the season. But that's for down the line. First and foremost, I've got a job to do this season and I can't wait to get started.

Brixton's other academy

While at primary school in South London, a young Nathaniel trained with the Brixton-based Afewee Academy, a not-for-profit community organisation staffed by local volunteers (the name comes from Jamaican slang for 'It's for us'). He became its first full international last November when he played the 90 minutes of England's 3-1 European Championships qualifier against Slovenia. Now with five full caps, he's one of 30-odd alumni from the academy who have been scouted and recruited by professional clubs. They include Sean Scannell (Huddersfield Town), Andre Blackman and Charles Dunne (both Blackpool), Leo Chambers (West Ham) and Nathan Mavila (West Ham).

Afewee Academy founder Steadman Scott recently told The Guardian newspaper that Clyne was "this little boy, really good on the ball, very quiet, very competitive. A good attitude... Guys like him can inspire. They have a responsibility because their community, where they grew up, is still in danger. One day they will come back and talk to the kids, show them what can be achieved. Seeing Clyne playing for England is a dream in a million years. I could never have imagined that, but it was always about making the impossible possible."


Sean Scannell


Charles Dunne

Interview: William Hughes

Divock need to know

Origi origins

Born in Ostend (where the ferry goes) on 18 April 1995, he's part of a football family. Dad Mike was a Kenyan international who played for KV Oostende and Racing Club Genk, three of his uncles played in Kenya and his cousin Arnold Origi keeps goal for Norwegian side Lillestrom and the Kenyan national team. So it wasn't the greatest shock when Divock followed a similar career path by joining Genk's academy before moving to France to play for Lille OSC, aged 15, in 2010.

Life at Lille

The pacy striker made his Lille debut in February 2013 and immediately made a name for himself, equalising against Troyes to become the club's third-youngest goalscorer. It was his only goal in 10 substitute appearances that season, but 2013/14 proved to be a breakthrough campaign. He played 35 times for Les Dogues, scoring six goals, and caught the eye of Belgian coach Marc Wilmots.

World first

The previously uncapped Origi was a shock call-up for Belgium's 2014 World Cup squad after Christian Benteke ruptured his Achilles tendon. "I didn't know him," admitted Marouane Fellaini, while Wilmots revealed: "Most of the media didn't know who he was when I called him up. I listened to my gut and it told me that Origi's profile is close to that of Benteke's." Divock made his debut from the bench in Belgium's opener v Algeria before scoring the winner against Russia – a goal that sent this country through and made him the nation's youngest scorer (aged 19) at a World Cup.



A striking acquisition



Meeting and greeting fans on the summer tour



"Most of the media didn't know Origi when I called him up for Belgium"

Divock devotion

Divock again came from the bench in Belgium's final group game to make an impact – his parried shot leading to Jan Vertonghen's winner – and soon Origi-mania was sweeping across the country. A sea-park in Bruges named a newly-born dolphin 'Origi' in his honour while in Antwerp DJ Ronny Mosuse (whaddya mean you've not got him on your iPod?) laid down a techno track with the only lyrics being 'Origigigi Origogogo' endlessly repeated. Perhaps one for George Sephton to dig out for the Bournemouth game. Divock was rewarded with a starting place in the last 16 game against the USA, a match Belgium won 2-1 in extra-time, but in the quarter-final against Argentina a Gonzalo Higuain goal had Origi's team flying home.

And then...

He signed for Liverpool – but spent last season on loan at Lille as part of the deal. Origi netted nine goals in 44 games last year, picked up Champions League experience and added to his international goal tally with strikes against Andorra and Iceland. He's already found the net in a Liverpool shirt, heading home against the Thai All Stars in Bangkok, and believes his international experience stands him in good stead for life at Anfield. "It was very special to play in a World Cup at 19 years old. I like to play big games and it's a good thing I'm at Liverpool. They have experience of working with young players. The most important thing is that I work hard and then I think everything will be okay."

Words: Chris McLoughlin

Origi know

How Benteke's fellow forward and countryman founds his goalscoring way to Anfield




26
L.F.C.

NOT YOUR ORDINARY JOE

Charlton to Liverpool via the Young Lions: welcome to the world of Joe Gomez

A little over 12 months ago, Joseph Gomez – Joe, to you and I – was a Charlton Athletic Under-18s player reporting back for pre-season training who expected to spend another season playing youth-team football. Now he's a Liverpool player who has spent pre-season on a tour of Thailand, Australia and Malaysia with designs on making a name for himself at first-team level.

Should his Liverpool debut arrive sooner rather than later – and in Brendan Rodgers we have a manager who has no qualms about giving young players opportunities – then it will be another step up the footballing ladder which Gomez appears to be climbing two rungs at a time. Not bad for a kid who was playing Power League five-a-side football with his mates in London not so long ago.

"I was born in Lewisham, grew up around there, Sydenham and Catford, and went to Forest Hill School – my local boys school – but I was playing football from when I was very young," he says moments after doing his first Liverpool FC Magazine photoshoot at Melwood. "When I was at primary school I'd play five-a-side down the local Power League and I joined a

team that was associated to that. I played Sunday league football for sides like Lewisham Youth and also for county sides Blackheath District and London County. A lot of scouts come to watch county games and when I was in the Under-9s or Under-10s I was lucky enough to get a trial with Charlton and things went on from there."

Charlton's Academy, under the guidance of Steve Avory, has a reputation for producing players. It was set up in 1998 – the year the Addicks were first promoted to the Premier League – and since then over 20 graduates have gone on to become first-team players at The Valley. Names like Charlie MacDonald, Jamal Campbell-Ryce and Jonathan Fortune will be familiar to many, but the most prominent Charlton alumni are undoubtedly Carl Jenkinson – who spent last season on loan from Arsenal at West Ham – and former Liverpool midfielder Jonjo Shelvey.

Like Gomez, Shelvey was also 18 when he left South London for Merseyside in 2010 to become only the third Charlton player to sign for the Reds after Frank Lock and John Evans, who both joined Liverpool on Christmas Day 1953! It was difficult for Shelvey to establish himself here as he played under three different managers (Roy Hodgson, Kenny Dalglish and Brendan Rodgers) in three seasons, but he still clocked up 69 appearances and scored seven goals, his long-range strike against Chelsea at Anfield in May 2012 undoubtedly the most memorable. He moved to Swansea City in 2013 as Rodgers continued to remodel his squad, but the opportunity which Jonjo got at both Charlton Athletic and Liverpool is a useful reference point for Gomez.

To see a kid from the same academy progress to be a Premier League star and England international can only inspire, and Joe is following the same path. "There's a good set-up at Charlton and the players that have come through the club speaks for itself. Jonjo Shelvey is probably the most well-known in recent years, and one of the big things for me is that not only are there a lot of good footballers to come through Charlton, they give you a chance there. They gave me a chance last season and that provided me with the opportunity to come here.

"Charlton gave me a chance last year and that's why I'm now at Liverpool"



"Ambition is a big thing for me. I was enjoying playing at Charlton, getting games, and the manager emphasised to me that I'd carry on playing next season. But the opportunity to come to Liverpool – a club with so much history, tradition and quality – and to work with Brendan Rodgers is only going to make me a better player. Just to train every day with the quality players here is something I wanted to do. Playing games at Championship level is great, but when you get a taste of it you want to keep progressing. I'm now at a great club like Liverpool with the ambition to play games."

Gomez got his chance last season after Charlton's Academy staff alerted new manager Bob Peeters that they had a real talent on their hands. The athletic centre-back had enjoyed a good summer – he was a key part of the England Under-17s side that won the European Championships in Malta – so Peeters took him away with the first-team squad and gave him 90 minutes in a friendly against Sint-Truiden, Simon Mignolet's first club. The boss liked what he saw, commenting: "I am a happy man if I can bring in a young gun, and if he is playing already at this level then I think he is going to be a great talent. I heard that he was a good player, but he surprised me. If this is the standard then I think we have a very good central defender."

A full debut followed in August as Charlton beat Colchester United 4-0 in the Capital One Cup, but it wasn't just playing a first-team game at The Valley that was a new experience for Gomez. "I was playing at right-back," he recalls. "In fact for the first half of the season I was strictly a full-back. That was quite new to me, but it has helped me long-term as it now gives me the opportunity to play at centre-back or full-back. That has helped me to progress."

Peeters was out of a job after Christmas but that means Joe's Charlton career petered out. If anything, the appointment of Israeli manager Guy Luzon brought his game on another level. "The new manager came in January and he put even more trust in me. He had faith in me to play at centre-back and not all managers are willing to put a young lad in at that position in the Championship. He gave me that opportunity and towards the end of the season I was playing every game there."

Going from Under-18s football to the Championship takes a bit of getting used to, and the physical side of the game was a big thing for Gomez to deal with. Barrel-chested strikers with elbows honed in pencil-sharpeners are far more common at that level, and Liverpool's new no12 feels he'll have to deal with a different type of opponent in the Premier League.


Playing for Charlton v Blackpool last year

"There's a lot more technical quality at Premier League level"

"Championship-level is very physical. The tempo is high and there are always challenges flying in and a lot of strikers with a physical presence to deal with. I've not played at Premier League level yet, but from what I've seen in pre-season and in training with the boys, it seems more technical. If you make a mistake in the Premier League you are going to get punished whereas in the Championship you might get away with a slip-up. There's a lot more quality at this level."

One thing Kopites will be intrigued to see in 2015/16 is the tactical set-up that Rodgers adopts. Having switched between three and four at the back last season, sometimes during a game, the Liverpool boss needs defenders who are flexible enough to operate in both systems. At 18 years of age, and with only 24 appearances for Charlton to his name, you might think it would be a new experience for the softly-spoken defender to contend with. Think again.

"Generally we played four at the back at Charlton, but a couple of times I played in a three. It's definitely a big difference to play in the two systems. Say for instance I'm playing on the right of a three, there are a lot more restrictions on going forward, especially if our opponents are playing two up-top, because there are only three of us there. You've got to be careful not to leave yourselves too exposed or two on two. When I was playing at right-back in a flat back-four and the ball was on my side I was

JOE ON SEAN O'DRISCOLL



"I got to work with Sean at international level [Under-19] all last season and he made me feel comfortable. He taught me a lot of things, especially on the technical side of the game. He was a great manager to work with and straightaway on the training pitch here he's been the same. It was nice for me to come to Liverpool and already know one of the members of the coaching staff. He knows what my qualities are so I was happy to hear that he was coming here to work with the manager."



"I'm quite an athletic defender and I like to think that I can read the game"

In the LFC spotlight

encouraged to overlap, to get forward, something I enjoyed doing. Having mainly played as a centre-back in a four I enjoyed playing in both those roles and I found that I liked to get forward when I was at right-back. It was a good thing that I got to play games in those positions as it meant I could show my versatility.

"I'm quite an athletic defender in terms of strength and pace. I like the physical aspects of the game and I like to think that, when I'm playing at centre-back, I can read the game. Getting on the ball and keeping possession is also part of my game and that's something I'm being encouraged to do at Liverpool.

"In training here there is an emphasis upon wanting to receive the ball and pass it. I like that because in the Championship there are a lot of long balls. To be encouraged to try and play it here suits me, so I want to keep learning from the manager and also the other centre-backs I'm now working with."

The nature of modern football means it is highly unlikely that Gomez will ever find himself playing alongside just one other centre-half for a sustained period of his Liverpool career – squad rotation means the days of Hansen-and-Lawrenson or even Hyypia-and-Henchoz are seemingly behind us – and he believes it is an aspect of the game that aspiring young defenders must adapt to.

"You've got to know your set positions no matter who you are playing alongside because there is so much rotation now. Last year at Charlton I played in quite a few partnerships and you've got to be willing to rotate. As long as you communicate with whoever you are playing next to and there is a good general bonding of the team, you should be fine to play with whoever else the manager has picked. For me, coming to Liverpool and playing alongside more experienced players has got to help. Obviously the other lads here have got the knowledge and the experience so I'm looking forward to learning from them."

Gomez won't just be learning from team-mates such as Martin Skrtel, Mamadou Sakho, Dejan Lovren, Kolo Toure, Andre Wisdom and Tiago Ilori, he'll be competing with them for a place in Rodgers' side. He knows it won't be easy and has set his aims for his first season on Merseyside realistically. "I've not set a specific target in terms of how many appearances I could make this season or whatever. My aim was to come in for pre-season, try to establish myself in the squad and make an impact when I train or play. I've got to work hard to try and put myself in and around the first team and show what I can do.

"One of the first things I looked at [when Liverpool were interested] was what kind of opportunities I would get to play. The manager is known for giving young players games so that was a massive thing for me to consider when deciding to come here. If I'm not involved straightaway there might be an opportunity for me to get games on loan, but my main ambition is to play games for Liverpool."

Given how quickly Joe Gomez has already risen through the ranks, you wouldn't bet against him achieving his ambition sooner rather than later.



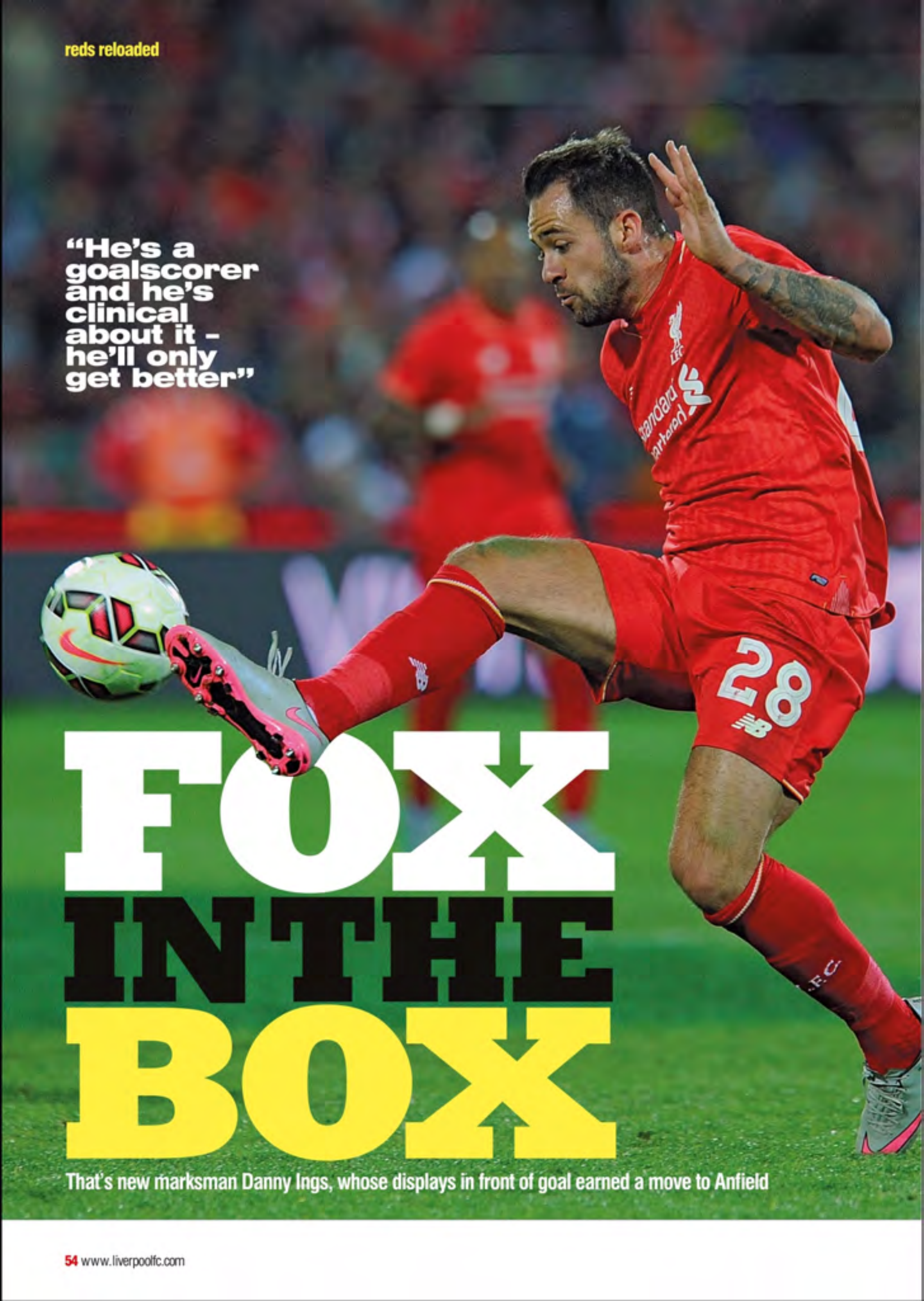
Training with his new team-mates

LEARNING FROM LEGENDS

"I'm only 18 so the centre-halves I grew up watching are recent players. Rio Ferdinand and Jamie Carragher are the two main centre-backs in England that I watched the most. Different defenders do different things well, especially in the Premier League, so if someone is good in the air – for instance John Terry when he goes forward for corners – then I look at those qualities and at how I can emulate them. Ferdinand was good on the ball. Carragher was great at getting tackles and blocks in. You've got to take bits from everyone, try to learn from them and become your own player."



Interview : Chris McLoughlin : main image by Andrew Powell



"He's a goalscorer and he's clinical about it – he'll only get better"

FOX IN THE BOX

That's new marksman Danny Ings, whose displays in front of goal earned a move to Anfield



Consistently putting the ball in the back of the net is the hardest task in football. So trying to accomplish it in a struggling Burnley side who finished last season in 19th place must have been extremely difficult. The Clarets managed 28 goals; the fact that Ings netted 11 of those and created another four gives you an idea of the Winchester-born forward's prowess.

Modern football seems to have less goal-poachers in the mould of a John Aldridge or Robbie Fowler – those who just instinctively knew where to be when it came to scoring. Danny is definitely someone who possesses that knack of popping up at the right time to pounce on a loose ball or convert a half-chance. All of his 11 Premier League goals for Burnley, including one penalty, came from inside the area. The same applied to his maiden Liverpool strike in the 2-0 pre-season win over Adelaide United.

Now 23, Ings emerged from Bournemouth's academy to debut against Northampton Town in the Football League Trophy in 2010. He was briefly loaned to Dorchester Town in the Conference South before returning to establish himself in the Cherries team and score eight goals in 23 League One starts. Such form attracted Burnley and a step-up to the Championship in the summer of 2011. Competition from forwards Jay Rodriguez, Charlie Austin and Sam Vokes meant Danny had to be patient at Turf Moor. He was eventually rewarded with a regular place and responded with 21 goals in 40 outings as the Clarets earned promotion to the Premier League in 2013/14.

Firing at goal on the tour

He may be here at Anfield but Ings appreciates that the hard work is only beginning. When it came to choosing his squad number, plenty were available, including the illustrious 7 and 8, but he opted for 28: "I would make sure I am established before taking any of those numbers. It's such a huge club. I wouldn't want to go to Liverpool and chuck a shirt on my back like that – it is pressure you don't need. Obviously I am going to work my socks off to earn that kind of number one day. For now I will take a high number and work hard."

Aldo, for one, thinks the new boy could be a big hit: "He's young and has great potential. He's a goalscorer who knows where the net is. His movement is good and he's quick. He's quite clinical in front of goal, so he's a player that will only get better."



With her new shirt

ROSIE: LUCKY FOR SOME

Look out for a new force upfront for Liverpool Ladies: the reigning FA Women's Super League champions have bolstered their attacking options for the second half of the season by recruiting New Zealand international Rosie White. The 22-year-old appeared at the Women's World Cup finals in Canada and had previously played for Western Springs and Three Kings United in New Zealand before moving to the United States to play for the University of California. She has represented New Zealand at all youth-levels and captained her country at the 2012 Women's Under-20s World Cup.

She says: "Playing in England has always been an ambition of mine and I am thrilled to be able to do so with Liverpool. Joining the champions and having the prospect of playing in the Women's Champions League is exciting."

Rosie, who scored on her full debut against Notts County – following up when team-mate Kate Lognhurst had her shot saved by the goalkeeper – has taken the no13 shirt and had no qualms about doing so.

"Apparently it's unlucky but I've worn it in New Zealand and America and it's been alright for me so far! It's a family number. My brothers wore it when they played sports – rugby and water polo – so I have followed suit. The other bonus is that it's usually spare! My new team-mates are a bunch of really cool girls. There are lots of characters and they've been really welcoming – I already feel part of things."

You can follow Rosie on Twitter @rosiewhite13

Words: John Hynes

TEAM BEHIND THE TEAM

It's a blend of new faces and old favourites in the manager's backroom staff for 2015/16

SEAN O'DRISCOLL

Former England Under-19s boss Sean, newly appointed as no2 to Brendan Rodgers, will relish the prospect of his home debut in the technical area on Monday 17 August: the 58-year-old spent the best part of a decade with Bournemouth as a midfielder then manager.

He made 423 appearances for the Cherries between 1984 and 1995 before becoming boss in 2000. Three years later his team won promotion via the play-offs to the Second Division. He then had spells in charge of Doncaster Rovers, Crawley Town, Nottingham Forest and Bristol City, most recently heading up the Under-19s. Of joining the Reds he says: "The hallmark of any successful football club is its culture and that comes from the people who work there: from the chief executive and first-team manager to those people behind the scenes whose faces may not be known but who are the lifeblood of the club."

And his philosophy? "At the start of my coaching career 20 years ago I embarked on trying to get players to think for themselves, rather than be coach-led. Some do this instinctively, some have to be nurtured into thinking this way. This is as relevant today as it was then in trying to produce fluid, entertaining and winning teams. I'm looking forward to working with such a talented group of players and staff and I am delighted to be here."

Boss Rodgers adds: "My admiration for Sean, as a professional, is well documented. He is someone with a clear vision and philosophy and has the ability to transfer that knowledge, through his coaching, to the players."





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PEP LIJNDERS

Dutchman Pep joins the senior set-up as first-team development coach having overseen the progress of the Under-16s last season. He originally moved to Liverpool in the summer of 2014 having worked at PSV Eindhoven and Porto.

Last year he told this magazine: "Before coming here I had spent the last seven years at Porto as director of individual player development. I worked with all age-groups from the little ones through to the second team. It was hard to step away, but there were three factors in my decision: this is the right club, the right moment and I will be working alongside the right people.

"It's the right club because there are not many others in Europe who have a bigger tradition and history than FC Porto but Liverpool is one of them. It's the right moment because with the ideas of the first-team manager Brendan Rodgers I believe we have exciting times ahead. And I am convinced we have the right people here. With Alex Inglethorpe, Nick Marshall, Neil Critchley and others we don't only have top coaches, we have top people who think about the long-term, not just the here and now."

The 32-year-old will continue to work with elite talent at the Academy as part of his new brief, created in line with a new technical approach to coaching. Brendan Rodgers calls it "a fantastic opportunity for Pep and one which I know he will grasp with both hands. He displays a passion and enthusiasm that is truly infectious and I believe will have a positive impact."

"This is the right club at the right moment with the right people"





GARY MCALLISTER

Kop hero Gary Mac is back at Anfield as first-team coach. The former Scottish international midfielder spent two seasons at Anfield between 2000 and 2002 after being signed by Gerard Houllier from Coventry City in what, at the time, was a shock move given he was 35 years of age.

But his experience and class shone through in season 2000/01 and he scored five goals in five games during the run-in – including that 94th minute derby winner at Goodison from 44 yards – as the Reds landed a unique treble of trophies and qualified for the Champions League for the first time. Kopites have continued to sing his name ever since – the epic 'Gary Macca, Gary Gary Macca' hoe-down has rung around many a stadium concourse.

Brendan Rodgers says: "Gary has a special connection with this club and its supporters, and I'm delighted he's joined our team. When I met him I was struck by his passion, enthusiasm and knowledge for what we're looking to achieve here. He has experience coaching at the highest level and is someone who can connect with players."

McAllister, who for season 2010/11 was assistant to Houllier at Aston Villa, has a sense of deja vu:
"I feel as if I owe Liverpool, getting that [playing] opportunity at the last stage of my career. This is similar and I just hope history repeats itself. Liverpool is a club where you can win things – that's a fact. I'm just looking forward to getting in among it."

"It feels a bit like last time and hopefully history will repeat itself"



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THE LFC SEASON DIARY

Month by month: how the whole sporting calendar fits around Liverpool FC's fixtures for 2015/16

AUGUST

While England and Australia are playing for the famous urn, Liverpool will be trying to 'earn' (sorry) a better result in the Potteries on the opening weekend of the season having been hit for six back in May. Sky Sports have cherry-picked Bournemouth's first ever Premier League away match for Monday night TV coverage, meaning the Reds will be the last top-flight side to begin their home campaign this season, before another Monday-night date awaits at Arsenal. It's a tough start on the road, but then you've got to go everywhere at some point.

Thu 6 England v Australia 4th Ashes Test – Trent Bridge

Sat 8 Sunderland AFC Ladies v Liverpool Ladies

Sun 9 Stoke City (A)

Get away: Liverpool have met Stoke six times on the opening day. They've won the last four, all at Anfield; at Stoke they've drawn one and lost one.

Fri 15 Liverpool Ladies v Durham Women

Mon 17 AFC Bournemouth (H)

Home truth: A Cherries victory would make them the 53rd visiting side ever to win in the league at Anfield and the 30th in the Premier League era.

Thu 20 England v Australia 5th Ashes Test – Oval

Sat 22 IAAF Athletics World Championships – Beijing

Sat 22 Liverpool Ladies v Bristol Academy Women

Mon 24 Arsenal (A)

Get away: Premier League games between the sides are almost symmetrical with Liverpool winning 16, Arsenal 15 and 15 being drawn.

Wed 26 Liverpool Ladies v Sunderland AFC Ladies

Sat 29 West Ham United (H)

Home truth: the Hammers last won here in September 1963, two months before US president John F Kennedy was assassinated.

Sat 29 Rugby League Challenge Cup Final – Wembley

Sun 30 Manchester City Women v Liverpool Ladies

PITCH PERFECT

At 101 metres in length, Anfield's pitch is one of the shortest in the Premier League – a full four metres less than some other playing surfaces – but has the maximum width of 68 metres. Premier League rules stipulate that all pitches should be a standardised 105m x 68m – and ten of this season's venues meet that criterion – unless the construction of a stadium makes this 'impossible'.

Anfield's touchline measures 101m

SEPTEMBER

International breaks are always a concern ahead of big Premier League fixtures so Brendan Rodgers will be hoping all his players return from their September sojourn fully fit for the annual trip down the East Lancs to Old Trafford. Liverpool's Europa League campaign begins the following Thursday (the draw for the group stage was on the day this issue went to print, so you'll know who we're playing by now) and that means a Sunday-afternoon visit from newly-promoted Norwich. The Reds are also back in Capital One Cup action in September,

PREMIER IN...

Bournemouth will become the 47th different club to have played in the Premier League this season. Liverpool have beaten 44 of the 45 clubs they've previously played in the division with only Blackpool – who beat the Reds twice in 2011/12 despite going on to be relegated – avoiding defeat.



Rugby World Cup straddles two months

One of the team dugouts at Anfield

Wimbledon champ Novak heads to NYC

although the third round might struggle to knock the Rugby World Cup off the back pages unless another marathon penalty shoot-out a la Middlesbrough 2014 awaits.

Thu 5 Liverpool Ladies v Arsenal Ladies
Thu 10 Manchester City Women v Liverpool Ladies
Sat 12 Manchester United (A)
Get away: the only two hat-tricks in Prmeier League meetings between the teams both came in 2010/11 – Dimitar Berbatov at Old Trafford and Dirk Kuyt replying in the Anfield encounter.
Sat 12 US Open women's tennis final – Flushing Meadow
Sun 13 US Open men's tennis final – Flushing Meadow
Sun 13 Great North Run – Newcastle
Sun 13 St Ledger horse race – Doncaster
Thu 17 UEFA Europa League Matchday 1
Fri 18 England v Fiji opening Rugby World Cup fixture – Twickenham
Sun 20 Norwich City (H)
Home truth: when Luis Suarez scored four times in Dec 2013, he became the first player in Premier League history to score three hat-tricks against the same club.
Tue/Wed 23/24 Capital One Cup R3
Sat 26 Aston Villa (H)
Home truth: Villa were Steven Gerrard's 'favourite' club – of his 186 goals in all competitions he scored 13 times against the West Midlanders.
Sat 26 Liverpool Ladies v Chelsea Ladies

OCTOBER

Travelling Kopites are due in London twice in (Red) October and so are NFL fans with two International Series fixtures being held at Wembley, the home of, er, soccer. The Rugby World Cup Final is also on the same weekend as Chelsea v Liverpool, meaning you'll probably bump into a lot of Australians and New Zealanders in the capital that weekend – but the month begins with a Merseyside derby across the park that will be played on a Sunday due to our Europa League commitments. It finished 0-0 last time out at Goodison and there hasn't been back-to-back goalless derby draws since 1975, so the scoreboard operator should see some action.

BENCH MARKS

Every Premier League club must have two 'trainer's benches' that are equidistant from the halfway line, under-cover and capable of seating a minimum of 14 people, seven of which are substitutes. There is often a spare seat on the home bench at Anfield as Brendan Rodgers spends much of his time stood in the technical area.

Thu 1 UEFA Europa League Matchday 2
Sun 4 Everton (A)
Get away: the last three clashes 'across the park' have been drawn and if this ends all-square it'll be the first time there have been four successive Goodison derby draws.
Sun 4 Bristol Academy Women v Liverpool Ladies
Sun 4 Miami Dolphins v New York Jets NFL International Series – Wembley
Sat 10 Super League Grand Final – Old Trafford
Sat 17 Tottenham Hotspur (A)
Get away: 134 goals have been scored in Premier League meetings between the sides – two more than the next most productive Liverpool fixture, that against Newcastle.
Thu 22 UEFA Europa League Matchday 3
Sat 24 Rugby World Cup semi-final 1 – Twickenham
Sun 25 Southampton (H)
Home truth: the Saints have scored in the last two games here and the two players who found the net moved to Liverpool the following season – Dejan Lovren and Nathaniel Clyne.
Sun 25 Rugby World Cup semi-final 2 – Twickenham
Sun 25 Jacksonville Jaguars v Buffalo Bills NFL International Series – Wembley
Tue/Wed 27/28 Capital One Cup R4
Sat 31 Chelsea (A)
Get away: Liverpool have scored more than once in only one of the last 19 league visits – in November 2011 when Daniel Sturridge scored for the hosts.
Sat 31 Rugby World Cup Final – Twickenham

YOU ARE THE REF

How are referees selected for fixtures? Over to the official Premier League Rule Book: 'Appointments are made by the Professional Game Match Officials Board. They take into account several factors, including the referee's overall experience, their current form, how often they have refereed the clubs involved, which team the referee supports and any forthcoming international appointments'.

NOVEMBER

Just when you thought our away schedule couldn't get much tougher a trip to Manchester City awaits after the November international break. Did we forget to send the fixtures computer a Christmas email or what? The business-end of the Europa League group stage is also on the schedule while away from football all the focus will be on horsepower with the Formula One season on track to

We're at home on Boxing Day!

finish in Abu Dhabi, and the Melbourne Cup – a race in which ex-Red-turned-racehorse-owner Michael Owen had a runner in 2013 – being held Down Under.

Sun 1 Kansas City Chiefs v Detroit Lions NFL International Series – Wembley

Tue 3 Melbourne Cup horse race

Thu 5 UEFA Europa League Matchday 4

Sun 8 Crystal Palace (H)

Home truth: on the only two occasions that the South Londoners have won here, 1991/92 and last season, they completed a league double over the Reds.

Sat 21 Manchester City (A)

Get away: James Milner played 24 times v Liverpool scoring one goal. His City debut came at Eastlands in August 2010 when his team beat the Reds 3-0.

Thu 26 UEFA Europa League Matchday 5

Sun 29 Swansea City (H)

Home truth: Swansea have never won at Anfield in the league and the only Swans boss to prevent the Reds from scoring here was Brendan Rodgers in November 2011.

Sun 29 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix – final F1 race of the season

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Every Premier League club must submit an annual floodlight report with details of an alternative power source in the event of a power failure. The strict technical criteria includes a rule that the 12 front rows of stands are illuminated but must provide a comfortable, glare-free environment for the spectators using them.

DECEMBER

For the first time since Brendan Rodgers became boss the Redmen are at Anfield on Boxing Day; there's no indication he'll celebrate by utilising the Christmas-tree formation. A couple of trips up to the North East will warm the cockles of Kopite hearts – walking up the steps to the St James' Park away end keeps you toasty whatever the weather – and there's also a double 'W' header with West Brom and Watford before Christmas. The Euro 2016 draw also takes place in 'Gay Paree' and if the Reds are through in the Europa League we'll learn our fate on 14 December.

Tue/Wed 1/2 Capital One Cup R5

Sat 5 Newcastle United (A)

Get away: Liverpool have scored more goals at St James' Park than any other ground on their travels (36), despite not hitting the net at the stadium last season.

Thu 10 UEFA Europa League Matchday 6

Sat 12 Euro 2016 draw – Paris

Sun 13 West Bromwich Albion (H)

Home truth: the Baggies have won two of the last four league games at Anfield – their first successes here in the last 25 encounters.

Sat 19 Watford (A)

Get away: at the end of season 1982/83 newly-crowned champions Liverpool visited runners-up Watford for the first time in the league.

Sat 26 Leicester City (H)

Home truth: Ray Clemence and Peter Shilton kept goal when the sides played out the only

JUST VISITING

Away fans are entitled to 3,000 tickets for Premier League fixtures unless a stadium has a capacity of less than 30,000. In that instance a host club makes 10 per cent of tickets available.



Final Europa League group game in December

goalless draw in 45 league meetings at Anfield, in 1973.

Sat 26 King George VI Chase horse race – Sandown

Mon 28 Sunderland (A)

Get away: Liverpool have conceded only 10 goals in their last 23 league visits to Wearside, keeping 15 clean sheets in the process.

JANUARY

The new year begins with what should be Liverpool's final-ever Premier League visit to Upton Park before West Ham's planned move to the Olympic Stadium, and a later-than-normal FA Cup third-round tie. But you're already looking at that second week in January, right? Both Arsenal and Manchester United visit Anfield in the space of five days for what promises to be an action-packed start to 2016. A return to Carrow Road follows – Norwich isn't quite as far away as Melbourne where the Australian Open will be taking place – and we'll have high hopes that James Milner might get on the scoresheet down there as the last fella to wear the Liverpool no7 shirt quite liked visiting the Canaries.

Sat 2 West Ham United (A)

Get away: Liverpool have failed to score in only two of their last 16 visits to the East End, but in those games the Reds have managed just two clean sheets.

Tue/Wed 5/6 Capital One Cup semi-final 1L

Sat/Sun 9/10 Emirates FA Cup R3

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

Liverpool are one of only seven clubs to have played in every Premier League season. Arsenal, Aston Villa, Chelsea, Everton, Man United and Tottenham are the others – while Stoke City and Swansea City are the only clubs to have been promoted to the Premier League and never been relegated.

Tue 12 Arsenal (H)

Home truth: Liverpool will look for their 50th league win against the Gunners at Anfield in what is the 92nd meeting on Merseyside. Ten goals have been scored here in the last two seasons.

Sat 16 Manchester United (H)

Home truth: last season Steven Gerrard became only the sixth Liverpool substitute ever to be sent off in a game, only 38 seconds after coming off the bench.

Sat 23 Norwich City (A)

Get away: when Liverpool won 3-2 at Carrow Road in 2014, they equalled a club-record sixth successive away league win in a season.

Tue/Wed 26/27 Capital One Cup semi-final 2L

Sat/Sun 30/31 Emirates FA Cup R4

Sat 30 Australian Open women's tennis final – Melbourne

Sun 31 Australian Open men's tennis final – Melbourne

FEBRUARY

A milestone Super Bowl 50 takes place in February, but the NFL showpiece is a baby compared to the Merseyside derby which will be played for the 226th time this month…probably. Everton's Anfield visit is on the same weekend as the Capital One Cup final, so if the Reds go one better than last season hopefully we'll be walking down Wembley Way instead. With Europa League and FA Cup fixtures also potentially in the mix it promises to be a busy month, so February helpfully has a 29th day this year to give the players a day's rest ahead of big games in March.



Six Nations starts in February

Tue 2 Leicester City (A)

Get away: Robbie Fowler is the last Liverpool player to score a hat-trick away to Leicester City, at Filbert Street in October 2001 – they were the final goals of his first spell at the club.

Sat 6 Sunderland(H)

Home truth: in the last 42 league meetings between the clubs at Anfield stretching back to 1936, Liverpool have lost just twice to the Wearsiders – both games ending 1-0, in 1908 and 1982.

Sat 6 Opening games of Rugby Union Six Nations – Paris & Edinburgh

Sun 7 Super Bowl 50 – California

Sat 13 Aston Villa (A)

Get away: last season Liverpool recorded a record fourth successive league win at Villa Park for the first time ever.

Thu 18 UEFA Europa League round of 32 1L

Sat/Sun 20/21 Emirates FA Cup R5

Thu 25 UEFA Europa League round of 32 2L

Sat 27 Everton (H)

Home truth: Liverpool have drawn 11 times at Anfield in a Premier League Merseyside derby – comfortably more than against any other team in the era.

Sun 28 Capital One Cup final – Wembley



If it's April it must be the London Marathon

KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

Premier League clubs playing at home have priority for the choice of strip they wear, but should the visiting club's colours clash with the home goalkeeper kit then he must wear alternative colours instead – hence the reason why Simon Mignolet doesn't always wear the same strip at Anfield even though his outfield team-mates are always in red.

MARCH

Man City and Chelsea are both due in L4 during the opening fortnight of March so it should be a good month for throat-lozenge salesmen down Walton Breck Road. While Kopites are shouting themselves hoarse, horses will be getting cheered on in the shadow of Cleeve Hill as the Cheltenham Festival gets underway, and hopefully Liverpool will still be in the race for silverware (but not the Gold



The 2015/16 Premier League ball

Cup) as the FA Cup and Europa League continue. If you're thinking of getting away for Easter you'll also be pleased to know that it coincides with an international break – so you won't miss the Reds in action. Egg-cellent...

Tue 1 Manchester City (H)
Home truth: Philippe Coutinho has scored in the last two fixtures here – the last to do so on three successive occasions was Brian Hall between 1972/73 and 1974/75.

Sat 5 Crystal Palace (A)
Get away: In their first 13 league fixtures at Selhurst Park, the Reds conceded more than one goal just once. But they've shipped three in each of the last two visits.

Thu 10 UEFA Europa League round of 16 1L

Sat 12 Chelsea (H)
Home truth: Emre Can scored his first Liverpool goal in last season's Anfield meeting but the visitors came from behind to win 2-1.

Sat/Sun 12/13 Emirates FA Cup R6

Thu 17 UEFA Europa League round of 16 2L

Fri 18 Gold Cup horse race – Cheltenham

Sat 19 Southampton (A)
Get away: Liverpool's second goal in last season's game, scored by Raheem Sterling, was their 50th in the league at Southampton.

Sun 27 Boat Race – London

March also means Gold Cup

APRIL

April is a bit like an all-female pop group – there are five Saturdays in it – and that means a hectic month with three matches at Anfield and a couple of lengthy trips to Bournemouth and Swansea. It makes the 26-mile London Marathon look like a stroll in the park, and the capital promises to be busy that weekend with the FA Cup semi-finals also scheduled. Liverpool's home match with Stoke is on the same day as the Grand National, meaning it's likely to be moved to the Sunday even if we aren't in Europa League action the Thursday before, and on 15 April our thoughts will turn to the 96 Reds lost in 1989.

Sat 2 Tottenham Hotspur (H)
Home truth: Spurs have won only six of 72 league visits and accumulated just nine points from the last possible 63 at Anfield.

Thu 7 UEFA Europa League quarter-final 1L



Badges of honour

Sat 9 Stoke City (H)
Home truth: In the 60 league games at Anfield between the sides Liverpool have lost just three times – all in the Second Division in the 1950s.

Sat 9 Grand National horse race – Aintree

Sun 10 US Masters final day – Augusta

Thu 14 UEFA Europa League quarter-final 2L

Fri 15 27th Hillsborough Memorial Service – Anfield

Sat 16 AFC Bournemouth (A)
Get away: Danny Ings scored eight times for Bournemouth, and in helping Burnley into the Premier League in 2013/14 his 21 league goals included an equaliser at Turf Moor against the Cherries.

Sat 23 Newcastle United (H)
Home truth: only one of the 53 league and cup meetings at Anfield has failed to produce a goal, in February 1970.

Sat/Sun 23/24 Emirates FA Cup semi-finals – Wembley

Sun 24 London Marathon

Thu 28 UEFA Europa League semi-final 1L

Sat 30 Swansea City (A)
Get away: former Red Jonjo Shelvey scored in both league meetings for Swansea in 2013/14 while at Anfield last season he scored an own goal in Liverpool's 4-1 win.

MAY

Liverpool v Watford promises to be an historic occasion on 7 May as it will be the final time the Reds play in front of the 'old' Main Stand at Anfield – could we see the first-ever Main Stand mosaic? It might take a while to give everyone in the Paddock a guard of honour, too. Our Premier League campaign is guaranteed to end on a high at West Bromwich Albion – the Hawthorns is the highest ground above sea-level of the 92 league clubs – and maybe there will be other highs to come with the Europa League final being held in Switzerland and the FA Cup final at Wembley three days later. Get to both of those finals and 2015/16 will have been quite a season...

GET YOUR KICKS

A new ball, the Nike Ordem 3, will be used in Premier League games in 2015/16. The 'geometric 12-panel design enhances flight, while distributing pressure evenly across the ball. This means that the ball gives a consistent, accurate and powerful feel, with the first touch optimised by a fuse-welded synthetic leather casing'.

Mon 2 World Snooker Championship Final – Sheffield

Thu 5 UEFA Europa League semi-final 2L

Sat 7 Watford (H)
Home truth: Liverpool have won seven of the eight league games on Merseyside, with Watford's only win coming in August 1999, Tommy Mooney scoring.

Sat 14 Rugby Union Heineken Cup Final – Lyon

Sun 15 West Bromwich Albion (A)
Get away: Liverpool have scored only one goal in their last four away final-day league games, but they've won both last-day games at Albion, in 19001 and 1922.

Wed 18 UEFA Europa League Final – Basel

Sat 21 Emirates FA Cup Final – Wembley


FA

RA

What was it like to take those crucial penalties for England in the FIFA Women's World Cup finals? Liverpool's Fara Williams reveals all...

Fara Williams admits her summer World Cup adventure has yet to sink in. As England's record caps holder with an astonishing 147 to her name already, she's been part of the women's national team since the age of 17. Yet she had never been part of an England side that has impressed so much on the world stage.

Fara characteristically plays down her own part in England's exploits in Canada. But let's have it right: she is perhaps the most gifted female footballer this country has ever produced. She hit the headlines by scoring three penalties during the course of the tournament, including the extra-time effort that helped defeat Germany in the third-place play-off which secured the bronze medal.

"It was nice to come away with something tangible for all our efforts," she says. "To be honest this was the first tournament I've played with England where I came home feeling that we didn't let anyone down. We had a good idea of the level of support back home and as we grew into the competition, the spirit among the girls was unbelievable."

Having progressed from a group which included France, Mexico and Colombia, the Three Lionesses then saw off Norway and Canada in successive rounds to set up a semi-final against reigning champions Japan. That game in Edmonton would ultimately end in heartbreak for England as centre-back Laura Bassett unfortunately put through her own goal deep into stoppage time to give Japan a 2-1 victory.



"Of course it was disappointing," Fara reflects. "We didn't deserve that. Japan went ahead with a penalty which was awarded for a foul which took place outside the box and then we equalised with an award which may also have been a bit harsh.

"To lose in that way was hard because we'd played well and I believe Japan were struggling physically, while we were feeling strong. We only had two recovery days before the third place play-off but we were fine in that game, while I honestly believe that the reason Japan were beaten so heavily in the final [they were 4-0 down to USA inside 16 minutes, eventually losing 5-2] was that they were struggling. So to lose like that was tough. In some ways it would have been easier to take if we had been battered, but football always gives you highs and lows.

"To beat Germany for the first time in 31 years [for third place] was a good way to finish and we feel something special is happening now with the women's game in this country."

Liverpool Ladies fans could have been forgiven for allowing themselves a wry smile when Fara first stepped up to the spot in the final group game against Colombia. Usually so reliable, she'd hit the post from 12 yards in the 1-0 FA WSL defeat at Chelsea in April. Ever the perfectionist, she analysed that incident to the nth degree.

"After the game the Chelsea goalkeeper [Hedvig Lindahl] told me she thought it was in, but when I watched it back I think I bent my run slightly too much and probably took it too quickly. When you look at the penalties I took in the World Cup, I allowed myself a little bit more time to compose myself first."

Fara also revealed that she wasn't England's first-choice penalty-taker with Birmingham forward Karen Carney having been assigned the duties. "When we were given the pen against Colombia, Kaz asked me if I wanted to take it and I was more than happy. Then in the semi-final she wasn't on the pitch at the time. When we got the pen against Germany in the third-place game I asked Kaz if she wanted it but she said I should take it."

Fara backed herself to score and revealed that she hones her technique by practising her spot-kicks on the training ground at Widnes against goalkeeping coach Joe Potts.

"I gave myself a bit more time to compose myself before each kick"



Converting against Colombia in the last group game

Dispatching past Japan's keeper in the semi-final



Biting bronze after her pen v Germany for third place



Back in Liverpool colours

"I practise against our keepers but also against our goalkeeping coach who is a big guy. I reckon if I can score past someone with his reach, I can against most female keepers." The midfielder also went the same way with all three of her World Cup penalties – to the goalkeeper's right. "I used to go the other way but if you back your accuracy it shouldn't matter."

Overall, Fara says England can be proud of their achievements and are now itching to get going with the qualifiers for the 2017 European Championships in Holland. "If you asked the girls we would all say we want that tournament to start tomorrow! The job Mark Sampson has done with the England team in the space of 18 months is unbelievable. He has great belief in the girls and the way he has gone about it is first-rate.

"I understand we got a bit of criticism back home after the opening game against France, but the hardest match of any tournament is always the first one with the nerves and expectation. Also, I can't remember the last time we won against France. They were one of the favourites but we had a game-plan and executed it perfectly only to lose 1-0 because one of their players came up with a 'worldie'.

"It's hard to put into words how inspirational Mark's team talks are. Before the game against Germany, he allowed the players' families and friends to attend his team meeting to get a little insight and looking around the room after about five minutes, a number of them had tears in their eyes. It was incredible."

She hasn't had too much time to reflect on the summer but Fara knows that England's achievements will only increase the popularity of the women's game. "It's all very well asking for more media coverage and broadcasts of matches, but there comes a point where we as players have a responsibility too. We have to step up and produce performances that will make people want to come and watch us and hopefully we've done that.

"The reaction back home was obviously very good. When Prince William called us before the semi-final to say we were making the country proud it gives you a fair idea of the reaction. Being invited to Wimbledon, meeting the Prime Minister and so on was brilliant too. We've been invited to the theatre and concerts too, but most of them are in London so they are harder for some of us to get to being in the north!"

Within days of returning to these shores, Fara was back at Widnes to prepare for Liverpool's WSL game at Arsenal. She wasn't fully fit but still turned in an inspirational performance, firing home a 25-yarder with her left foot before supplying the corner from which the Reds doubled their lead in an eventual 3-1 victory. "That was tough because I was feeling really tired. I hadn't been eating that well since I came back from Canada and was still a bit jet-lagged. But we had a few injuries and I always want to play. After about 20 minutes I felt as though I was struggling. At half-time I mentioned that I might have to come off, but I managed 85 minutes in the end so I was happy with that."

"Looking around the dressing room there were tears in people's eyes"

Fara's focus has now returned to helping the Reds try to emulate their feats of 2013 and 2014 when the team landed the Women's Super League title. "If we're honest we have to win pretty much every game now if it is to stay in our own hands," she admits. "But hopefully there will be bigger crowds in the second half of the WSL season and we will definitely keep on fighting to the end."

Top player top person

Liverpool Ladies manager Matt Beard believes Fara is the best player he has ever worked with: "Fara is a great footballer but she's also a great person. She is very humble. I was talking to her on the phone soon after the tournament and she said she'd just seen herself on the telly and found it very strange. She hasn't got carried away with what's happened in Canada. The week after she returned home we had an away game at Arsenal. I'd have liked to have given her the opportunity to have a bit of a rest but unfortunately we picked up a few injuries late in the week. That game just went to show Fara's character. She wasn't fully fit, she was jet-lagged and her body clock wasn't the best but she put in an excellent performance – scoring a long-range goal and setting another one up – so I was really pleased with her."

Liverpool Ladies captain Gemma Bonner adds: "We were all delighted to see Fara do so well. To step up and score three penalties shows her character and willingness to take that pressure for the team. You could see what it meant to her, and everyone at the club was delighted for her. England's success is brilliant for the women's game – you could see from the attendances on the first weekend of the FA WSL after the tournament. There was an effect following the 2012 Olympics and now it's happening again. The public could see the quality that was on show and, judging by the comments on social media, the tournament made a big impact with people saying that they want to come along to games."







"THE PLAYERS AND FANS HAD A GENUINE RELATIONSHIP – THEY PASSED THE EUROPEAN CUP AROUND THE BAR"

Paul Walsh was the South London lad who joined Liverpool's all-conquering side on the eve of a European Cup final – as he recalls in this extract from his un-put-downable new autobiography

The context: after prolific scoring spells with Charlton Athletic then Luton Town, 21-year-old striker Paul Walsh wins the PFA Young Player of the Year award and signs for Liverpool in May 1984. Reds boss Joe Fagan invites him to join up with the squad ahead of the 1984 European Cup final against AS Roma in Italy, but Paul's decision to withdraw from England's Under-21 European Championship final double-header against Spain leads to a club v country row…

'I was relaxed and happy when I joined my new [Liverpool] team-mates for the first time as they went out for a training session in preparation for playing Roma. To my mind, there was no question I'd made the right decision to travel to Italy and what had happened was all in the past.

'There were no airs and graces about the Liverpool lads at all – they weren't Big Time Charlies, even if they had every right to be. There were holes in the training kit, everything was pretty basic and they were happy to play football wherever they were asked to. On the morning of the final we all trained on a gravel pitch near the hotel, which was no more than Sunday League standard. It was quite refreshing considering they were about to play the biggest club game in the world.

'I was a bit nervous because it was my first knock-around with them all and I had no idea what they thought about me. I remember looking around and seeing Graeme Souness, Kenny Dalglish, Mark Lawrenson, Alan Hansen, Ronnie Whelan, Ian Rush, Sammy Lee, Bruce Grobbelaar, Alan Kennedy, Phil Neal – plus many others – and thinking it was unbelievable that

"Before the final we trained on gravel - there were no airs and graces"

I was now part of it all. They also had the small matter of a European Cup final in a few hours' time.

'One of my main memories I had from that day was something I thought was a bit harsh on Phil Thompson. I didn't know what the protocol was as we left the hotel for the Olympic Stadium so I went to board the first coach. Manager Joe Fagan told me I was to travel on the bus behind, which had wives and journalists on, and that was fine by me.

'I was new and I wasn't part of the team that had made it to the final so I had no problem being told that, but behind me was Thommo. I heard Fagan say, 'No, no, Phil. You need to get on the second bus, too.' I turned around and could see he was devastated. He was a diehard Liverpool fan who had won everything with the club and made close to 500 appearances yet it counted for nothing at that moment. I felt for him but it taught me that there was a another side to the club that seemed to suggest that if you weren't in, you were out. There wouldn't be any middle ground or sentiment. Maybe that harsh edge is what made them dominant for such a long time.

'Former Liverpool striker David Johnson had left the club not long before the final but had travelled to Rome as a supporter. He didn't have



Walshy in the mid-80s pinstripe jersey

Eighties classics

Walsh's strike-rate of 37 goals in 92 starts wasn't too shabby for a player who spent a third of his time at Liverpool sidelined by torn ankle ligaments, a cartilage operation, a hernia and a broken wrist. But which goal did he rate as his finest?

"It's different goals for different reasons," he once told the matchday programme. "One of the most spectacular was a volley against Austria Vienna because it was a difficult thing to do and it was the European Cup. But the best I scored was when I came on as a sub against York City and we were winning about 5-0. The ball got pinged to me about 20 yards out from a corner, I hit it on the volley and it went right in the top corner.



"Then there was the one I just knocked in over the line against Manchester United in the 1985 FA Cup semi-final in injury-time. There was a big ball from Kenny to the back post. Rushie got up brilliantly and headed it, Gary Bailey could only take the pace off it with his fingers and I ran it over the line."

Walsh's most successful streak in front of goal for Liverpool came in season 1985/86 when he scored 10 times in 16 games. With new boss Kenny Dalglish then restricting himself to the odd substiute appearance, Paul forged a promising partnership with Ian Rush. There was even talk of him regaining his place in Bobby Robson's England squad for the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico. Unfortunately he picked up an ankle injury against Manchester United a month later which ruled him out for the season and the run-in to the Double.

a hotel room booked so he bunked in with me and Thommo at the team hotel the night before the game. There was a single and a double bed and he took the single, meaning I had to share the double with Thommo. I woke up in the night to find there was something long and hard sticking in my back – but luckily it was only Thommo's nose!

'At the Olympic Stadium, I made my way to the stands before kick-off with Dave Johnson and Thommo, who were both in good spirits and looking forward to the match. At the end of the day, they were massive Liverpool fans – but I wasn't and felt a bit out of it – so I decided to sit in between them instead and felt a bit more involved. The game itself was tense but Liverpool beat Roma on penalties when Alan Kennedy smacked the winner after Bruce had done his famous 'spaghetti legs' routine. It was probably then it began to sink in that

David Hodgson, Alan Kennedy…and Paul's head in the cup!

I was now playing for the champions of Europe. I'd come a long way in the space of a few years.

'There was a party that night at a hilltop villa in Rome where a reception was held. Later we went back to the Holiday Inn hotel in the city where there were loads of Liverpool fans staying. As you might imagine, they were delirious, in high spirits and mostly p****d. The lads just casually chatted and mixed with the supporters in the bar and the European Cup was passed around by everyone – it was ridiculous on some levels and fantastic in other ways. It was great to see how the players and fans had a genuine relationship. That was something I learned pretty quickly. Liverpool fans and the players had a real connection and that bond was a big part of the club's success over such a sustained period'.

"The lads went back to the hotel and mixed with all the Liverpool fans"

WIN A SIGNED COPY

We've got five signed copies of Paul's new autobiography to give away. Entitled *Walshy* and written by Paul Walsh and David Clayton, it's published by Sport Media priced £16.99. To be in with a chance of winning a signed copy, just answer the following question:

With which club did Paul win the FA Cup after he left Liverpool?

Send your answer, along with your name, address and contact number, to liverpoolfcmag@trinitymirror.com and put WALSHY BOOK in the title box. The winners will be announced in the next issue. Closing date: Friday 21 August 2015.



MAXIMUM BOB

Simple man, supreme manager. On the 70th anniversary of Bob Paisley's playing debut for Liverpool, and four decades since he managed the Reds to a League and UEFA Cup double, broadcaster and old pal John Keith pays tribute…

The figure sitting quietly in the corner, sipping a lemonade while the hotel reverberated to exploding champagne corks and celebratory sing-songs, was just a face in the crowd. That was the way Bob Paisley liked it. Low-key. No fuss. Get on with the job. That cameo on Liverpool's night of Roman carnival in 1977, after the magnificent conquest of Borussia Moenchengladbach that made him the first Englishman to manage a European Cup-winning side, returning to the city he had helped liberate during the war, classically captured the essence of Paisley.

He was a man who made things happen, then he would scuttle off centre-stage and be content to sit in the wings, happy for others to acclaim yet another triumph. Paisley shrank from the limelight, in contrast to his fellow legend Bill Shankly. "Bill put steel tips on his shoes so people knew he was coming, whereas I'd


John Keith

be happy in my slippers," observed Bob, who worked shoulder to shoulder with the extrovert Scot for almost 15 years before reluctantly accepting mission impossible by succeeding him in the summer of 1974.

Yet not only did Paisley make it possible, he led Liverpool to unseen horizons to become the most successful manager in English football history, lifting 19 trophies in nine seasons, including three European Cups. True humility flowed through him, imbued by his parents in the Durham pit village of Hetton-le-Hole. "Bob's the only man I know who had no ego," Kevin Keegan told me. The stability and values of his childhood continued through Bob's life in a wonderfully happy marriage to Jessie.

As a player for Liverpool, he was the supplier for stars like Billy Liddell and Albert Stubbins, while those who played under him as manager talk of his superb tactical brain which more than compensated for his less-than-fluent command of words. "The no4 hits a tidy one," was his warning about the opposing right half's passing ability, while the 'doins' could be anything from a tie-up to a substitute, hence the affectionate nickname bestowed upon him by

"Keegan told me that Bob was the only man he knew with no ego"

his players, 'Dougie Doins'. It was also the reason he asked a trusted quartet of national sportswriters, myself included I am privileged to say, to vet his words grammatically and change them wherever needed. Yet his football brain and knowledge of physiotherapy and injuries were peerless.

I believe that while nobody could have ignited Liverpool's fire like Shankly, no one could have picked up the torch and fanned the flames of glory like Paisley. The club were blessed to have both.

Bob Paisley: Reluctant Genius, featuring John Keith, Ian Callaghan, Jimmy Case, Alan Kennedy and Phil Neal, is at New Brighton Floral Pavilion on Friday 21 August. And look out for a series of special Paisley features in this magazine and 2015/16 matchday programme.

July 1974 and the new boss poses in front of the old Kop





Suddenly Liverpool are spoilt for choice with exciting attack options

Having missed out on the Champions League last season there was inevitable disappointment among Liverpool fans, but thanks to the quality of signings made this summer the mood has changed.

We've improved the squad significantly and the biggest problem is the lack of time the new players now have to settle in. Brendan needs them to gel quickly because we can't afford a slow start like last year.

Three new strikers have arrived and the fact that Christian Benteke is a proven Premier League goalscorer makes me optimistic that he will hit the ground running. Benteke proved that he can consistently score goals in a team struggling at the bottom of the table. He went through a lean spell, but you shouldn't forget that he suffered a very serious Achilles tendon injury last season. It takes a long time to get over that. Aston Villa saw the benefits of his recovery when he scored nine goals in 10 games at the end of last season so it bodes well for him at Liverpool.

I think there's also a misconception that because Liverpool now have a big man upfront we might play in a more direct style, but I look at Oliver Giroud at Arsenal. They don't play direct to him but have a lot of clever 'no10' players who operate behind Giroud and are willing to run in beyond him. We may now see something similar at Liverpool. We've got Coutinho, Lallana, Firmino, Markovic and Ibe – players who can make runs behind a defence knowing they've got a centre-forward who can really look after the ball. Benteke is mobile, he'll ask questions of a defence and I think his acquisition may even help Liverpool's defenders given they will be playing against him in training every day.

"I really think that we'll see Liverpool score more goals this season"

The manager now has to find a system that suits his new players and I expect him to play four at the back – Nathaniel Clyne looks like a superb addition – with a holding midfielder, whether it be Lucas, Emre Can or Joe Allen, plus Jordan Henderson and James Milner further forward.

Gone are the days when a manager will stick with one system no matter who the opposition are, so I also expect to see two strikers in some games and one, in a 4-3-3 system, in others, particularly away from home. When Benteke, Daniel Sturridge, Danny Ings and Divock Origi are all fit I can see Brendan Rodgers playing two up-top to get the best out of what he's got available. In short, I think we'll see Liverpool score more goals this season.

I just hope expectations aren't too high for a kid like Origi who, at the age of 20, has played in a World Cup but will need time to settle into life in England. Danny Ings has looked sharp in pre-season, but he will know that he's got to score goals to get into the starting XI at Liverpool. I can see the Europa League being important for some of the younger players to show what they can do – to impress Brendan – with Ings being one of them.

Overall I'm optimistic that Liverpool have made signings that will help to bridge the eight-point gap between ourselves and the top four last season. Benteke – and the creative players behind him – will make a big difference.

Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33



Benteke: not just a new big man





Anfield's **Main Stand** as we know it dates from 1973 when its last major facelift made it the most modern of the stadium's four stands at the time – but what was the name of the **architect** who designed the previous structure in 1906 as well as the original Spion Kop? Answer on p88.

RAISING THE ROOF

Strictly speaking not the roof but the 'truss'. One of the most spectacular moments of the Main Stand redevelopment saw a mighty structure lifted safely into place by two gigantic cranes





The development of Anfield's Main Stand continues apace and one of the most significant stages was completed in late July as a 650-tonne roof truss was put in place.

Lifting the 20-metre high, 140-metre long structure (the term comes from the French word *trousse* meaning a collection of objects bound together), which had arrived in sections and taken several weeks to assemble onsite, could only be carried out in calm weather conditions over the best part of a day. Once the go-ahead was given, the procedure was performed by two of the UK's largest cranes: the AK680 and AK912. Each standing 252ft high, they operated in tandem to raise the truss before lowering it onto two recently-erected towers, completing one of the most complex parts of the build programme.

The cranes have been employed upon projects all over the world, from Argentina to Thailand, and previous lifts in the UK have included the London 2012 Olympic Park and Wembley Stadium.

"It marks another incredible chapter in the rich history of our home"

It was the culmination of months of planning by Carillion, the club's construction partner. With the truss in position the next step of building the Main Stand's new roof began: cranes lifting and securing steel rafters into place. "This is an historic milestone in Anfield's history," explained chief executive officer Ian Ayre. "We embarked on this significant expansion project just seven months ago and now we're marking another incredible chapter. We are proud to be able to call Anfield our spiritual home and this is a redevelopment that gives us a fantastic opportunity to ensure that all the rich history and traditions that make this stadium so special can continue for many years to come."

The redevelopment of the Main Stand was originally announced in December 2014 and plans to add around 8,500 seats. This will take the capacity on that side of the ground to 20,000 and increase Anfield's overall capacity to approximately 54,000. The project remains on target for completion during the 2016/17 campaign. When finished the stand will comprise three tiers, with the existing lower tier re-profiled to accommodate a widened player tunnel, new team benches, media platform and wheelchair viewing positions.

RETURN TO OZ

Reds stars make a detour to help make a difference for disadvantaged kids Down Under

During the summer's successful club tour Reds first-teamers Mamadou Sakho and Alberto Moreno found time to visit youngsters from an Australian charity who were taking part in an Liverpool FC Foundation football coaching clinic.

The players joined Foundation community coaches in delivering a coaching session to 60 participants at the Adelaide Shores Football Centre. The participating six-to-16 year-olds were from The Smith Family's Learning for Life Scholarship Programme, which provides emotional, practical and financial support to help disadvantaged children and young people with their education.

Student leaders were also in attendance from the charity's Indigenous Youth Leadership Project which supports young Aboriginal people from remote areas of Australia to complete their education in metro capitals. Everyone was rewarded for demonstrating their newly-acquired skills with LFC goodie bags and autographs from the stars. Mamadou said: "It was great to have the opportunity to visit these youngsters and get involved in their coaching session. We all had so much fun and I hope the participants did too."

Earlier in the day the Foundation also visited The Reagan Milstein Foundation (RMF), with which it has an existing relationship, having first visited the charity in 2013. Established after the passing of Reagan in 2010, who was only 14 years old, RMF aims to achieve equality and opportunity through football. Much like the LFC Foundation, the charity uses the international language of football as a way to introduce role-models to less fortunate communities and invite them to make a positive difference.



Mighty Red, Mamadou and Alberto with coaches and happy kids in Adelaide

Skippy, Rushie, Mighty bring Anfield to Adelaide


Smiles with Craig and Ian

Also during the tour Reds legends Ian Rush and Craig Johnston joined Foundation coaches to deliver a coaching clinic to 50 blind pupils at the Adelaide Shores Football Centre in South Australia.

Children from three local blind schools attended the session, which included a range of specifically-adapted skills and drills. Ian joined Craig, nicknamed 'Skippy' during his time at Anfield and one of LFC's most famous former players Down Under, in encouraging the youngsters alongside the club's mascot Mighty Red. They also presented all of the participants with an LFC goodie bag.

LFC Ambassador Ian said: "We really enjoy getting involved in these coaching sessions with such inspiring youngsters. The Foundation coaches always provide professional, high-quality coaching and ensure that all the kids are having fun."

Andrea Cooper, head of Liverpool FC Foundation, added: "Through our highly-trained community coaches we are able to deliver a range of specifically-tailored sessions and workshops to engage with as many individuals as possible to promote genuine positive change."



Craig and Ian with the youngsters from the Royal Society for the Blind

Foundation coaches provided 60 children with a coaching clinic, as well as hosting an awards presentation with Mighty Red helping out.

Andrea Cooper, head of Liverpool FC Foundation, said: "It was fantastic to be able to support these two great charities as part of our pre-season tour. We have supported The Reagan Milstein Foundation for a number of years now so it was good to be able to revisit them and catch up on their recent work. Supporting other charities by using the unifying power of our club crest is one of our key ambitions to ensure that we have the greatest impact possible on people's lives – both at home and across the world."

"Visiting the children and taking part in the coaching session was great"


High-fives with some of the young participants

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Ray's Anfield album

Goalkeeping hero Clem is first up in an awesome new LFCTV series



There's a fantastic new series on LFCTV this season featuring Reds legends re-living their greatest moments through pictures – beginning with goalkeeping great Ray Clemence.

A host of famous players will be making an emotive journey as part of the new feature *In the Frame* on the weekly magazine show #LFCWORLD which returns for a third series with a fresh new look. While the show continues to bring viewers first-team exclusives and news from around the club, also new is a series entitled *Reloaded* which reviews classic football videos from the 1980s and 90s, plus a mini-series introducing Academy youngsters hoping to be stars of the future. And if you fancy yourself as an Anfield anorak, the weekly *Missing Men* brain-teaser will test your Reds knowledge to the full. Finally, back by popular demand is the fans gallery, allowing supporters from Bootle to Bangkok to take part.

Between the posts from 1967 to 1981 and rated by many as the greatest Liverpool goalkeeper of all-time, Clem was a key factor behind the club's march to glory during a success-strewn decade. Among his attributes were anticipation, positional awareness and lightning-quick reactions. With him in goal, errors were rarer than a Reds defeat, clean sheets were common and defensive records were broken.

During his 11 years in the first team he missed just six league matches and won almost every major honour in the game. When he finally left for Tottenham, he returned to experience the most famous Anfield ovation ever reserved for a visiting keeper.

Don't miss Ray's exclusive journey back in time on *In The Frame* – part of series three of #LFCWORLD, new every Thursday throughout the season from 6 August, only on LFCTV and LFCTV GO.

LFCTV is available on Sky channel 429 and Virgin Media channel 544. For LFCTV in the UK and Ireland, visit www.liverpoolfc.com/lfctv.









QUIZ ANSWERS: LIVERPOOL p5: (c) Sydney Olympic Stadium – Liverpool FC played at (a) Melbourne back in 2013 and at (b) Brisbane and (d) Adelaide earlier this year. **FOOTBALL p27:** Fabio Aurelio (August 2006); Lucas (August 2007); Diego Cavalieri (September 2008); Alexander Doni (April 2012); and Philippe Coutinho (February 2013). **CLUB p83:** Archibald Leitch – back then it was called the Lake Street Stand and had a famous mock-Tudor gable on its roof with the words 'LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB'.



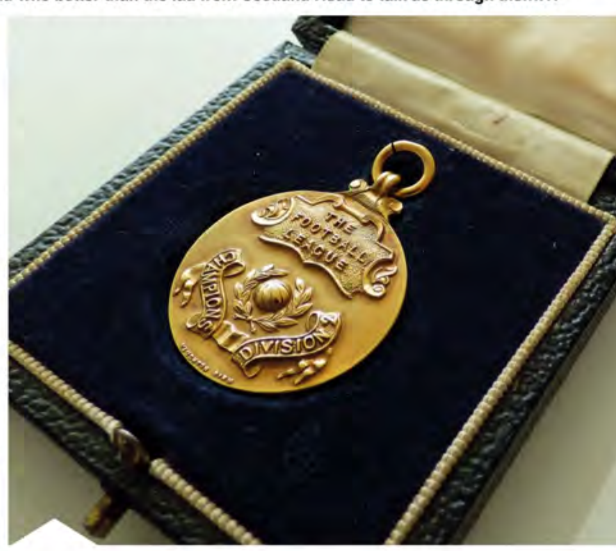
Melia's medals

Liverpool FC's museum has a new addition: the medals and memorabilia of Jimmy Melia, one of the original Bill Shankly boys, and who better than the lad from Scotland Road to talk us through them…

Football League XI v Irish League XI medal and box, 12 November 1958

"This game was played at Anfield and I was a reserve because Johnny Haynes was the key player and he operated in my position. He was the captain and Walter Winterbottom was in charge of the FA team. I'd made my Liverpool debut by this point and scored in front of the Kop. Overall I finished up scoring 79 goals in 286 games for Liverpool which wasn't bad for a midfield player. In this 1958/59 season I finished as the club's top scorer with 21 goals which was a nice statistic for me. I remember it well because I scored 21 goals in the year that I was 21!"





Second Division winner's medal and box, 1961/62

"I played all 42 games in this season so this was a special year for me. It took us seven years to get back into Division One. The year I signed as an apprentice at 15 years old was the same one that Liverpool went down to Division Two. That was also the same year that Bob Paisley became the trainer/physio at the club. It was an unbelievable season – I scored double figures [13] and we had two great players in Roger Hunt and Ian St John leading the attack. We finished eight points clear at the top of the table."


Jimmy aged 24 in August 1962



First Division winner's medal and box, 1963/64

"We went up to Division One and I played most of the games in that first year. For the second year Bill Shankly made me team captain for two games, one against Nottingham Forest and one against Fulham. In the game at Fulham I hurt my ankle. Roger [Hunt] gave me what they call 'a hospital pass' and Bobby Keetch went right over the top and Keetchy did me.
I had been picked for England by this stage as Alf Ramsey liked me, but I lost confidence after the injury and it took me time to come back.
I remember we played at Everton in February 1964 and lost 3-1. I played awful and Shankly blamed me because I was one of the key men in the team at that stage. I still played 24 times in the Championship-winning season and qualified for a medal which meant a lot to me, but that game at Goodison was my last for Liverpool."

England cap v Scotland, 6 April 1963

"I'd played for England schoolboys, then England's Under-17 team, the Under-18s, Under-20s and I'm pretty sure I was a reserve for the Under-21s as well. So to get my full international cap meant a lot to me. For a lad from Scottie Road [Scotland Road – a famous street just north of Liverpool's city-centre] to go on and play for Liverpool and then England was extremely special. This was from the game against Scotland in a Home Championship fixture at Wembley in April 1963. Unfortunately we lost 2-1 with Scottish midfielder Jim Baxter scoring twice in as many minutes.
My other England international cap came in a friendly against Switzerland in Basel and I scored in an 8-1 win. I scored my first goal for my country and never got picked again!"

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The Dream Draw offers a chance to watch the first team training at Melwood



Get with the programme

Official Full Members also get discounts on subscriptions to the monthly magazine and the club's matchday programme. The much-loved, hugely collectable *This Is Anfield* programme has an exciting new look and feel for season 2015/16, but its brief remains the same: deliver a brilliant matchday read for the thousands of passionate and knowledgeable fans inside Anfield as well as those who can't be there for the game. A high-quality publication that reflects the club's proud values and traditions, it features exclusive player interviews, revealing columns from the manager and captain, comprehensive coverage of the first team, Academy and Ladies, intelligent opposition analysis, and of course the very best action. The big match, the bigger picture.

No visit to Anfield is complete without a visit to the club museum. Now, along with over 120 years of LFC history explored with the help of state-of-the-art technology and never-before-seen displays, the brand new Steven Gerrard Collection is on show. The former captain has exclusively donated his personal treasure of footballing memorabilia for fans to enjoy, including match-worn LFC and England jerseys, signed opposition shirts, medals, trophies and awards, England caps and match items from Istanbul 2005. As a Full Member you get to experience it all at a discount, and you get the book *Stevie G – Thanks for the Memories* plus many other benefits like access to over 8,500 tickets for every Barclays Premier League home game, the chance to buy tickets in the Additional Members' Sale before every home game, and half-price access to Liverpool Ladies FC home games.

There are different Membership levels to suit any age from tots to lifelong fans. Those over 18 will also be eligible for the latest Dream Draw exclusive to LFC Official Members for 2015/16: the opportunity for five Members and a guest each to visit Melwood and watch the first team train, enjoy a signing session with players, experience a tour of Anfield and visit to The Liverpool FC Story, meet an LFC legend and have lunch at the Boot Room Sports Cafe, and be loaded with LFC goodies as a memento! Full details of the Dream Draw will appear from Tuesday 11 August in the Members area at **www.liverpoolfc.com/membership.**

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Brian Hall
1946-2015

To Kopites of a certain vintage, *writes Chris McLoughlin*, he was the kid from university who scored the winner against Everton in the 1971 FA Cup semi-final at Old Trafford. Younger Reds knew him as Liverpool FC's head of PR, occasionally on the Anfield pitch with a microphone, most memorably when he introduced a galaxy of legends to the crowd at the Kop's Last Stand in 1994. And to ex-team-mates, friends, colleagues and those whose paths he crossed as a loyal LFC servant, Brian Hall was one of the most humble, genuine and helpful fellas you could meet.

Born in Glasgow in 1946, he moved to Liverpool in his teens – but not to play football. "I had come to study mathematics at Liverpool University in the mid 60s," he told the website Shankly.com, "mainly because I was a Beatles nut and had to live in the city!" A trial at Liverpool went well for the diminutive, bustling midfielder and he joined as an amateur for three years before turning pro, making his debut against Stoke in April 1969.

Season 1970/71 marked Brian's breakthrough – his dramatic winner in the derby semi-final was his first goal in a red shirt. He went on to make 224 appearances for the club, including the 1974 FA Cup final when Newcastle were 'undressed', scoring 21 goals. Hall won the league with the Reds in 1973 but was famously left on the bench for the rearranged UEFA Cup final first leg against Borussia Moenchengladbach: before the waterlogged first game was abandoned, Bill Shankly spotted the Germans were weak in the air and played John Toshack instead.

Affectionately known as 'Little Bamber' after *University Challenge* presenter Bamber Gascoigne (fellow graduate Stevie Heighway was 'Big Bamber'), Hall would also joke about being the only outfield player not to score in the record 11-0 win against Stromsgodset in 1974. A true gent, he will be missed. YNWA.